

**Early Pioneers of  
the Negro Leagues  
JohnW.Connor**



by

**Center for Negro League Baseball Research**

**Dr. Layton Revel**

## Brooklyn Royal Giants

John W. Connor formed the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1904. During their first two years the Royal Giants were a good team but did not play at the level that Connor wanted for his team.

To take his team to the next level John Connor signed Grant “Homerun” Johnson away from the Philadelphia Giants. Johnson became his starting short stop and the team’s manager. Johnson responded to Connor’s confidence in him on the field by consistently being one of the team’s top hitters and playing flawless defense. In the dugout as the team’s manager, Grant Johnson provided the leadership that would transform the Brooklyn Royal Giants into the best black baseball club in the East.

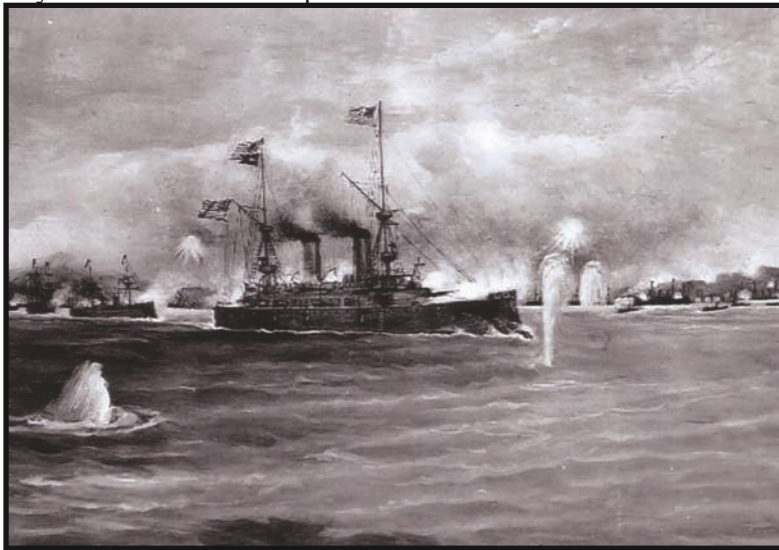
Along with hiring Grant Johnson in 1906, Connor also signed the following players who had a significant impact on improving the ball club: Bill Monroe (2B), Jack Emery (P) and Billy Holland (P/OF).



**Brooklyn Royal Giants (1906)**

(Back row standing left to right – Bill Merritt, James Robinson, **Grant “Home Run” Johnson**, Lefty “Pop” Andrews, Al Robinson, Harry Brown and Eugene Milliner. Front row seated left to right – **Andrew “Jap” Payne**, W. “Nux” James, **John W. Connor**, Billy Holland and Charles “Kid” Carter.)

John W. Connor was born in Portsmouth, Virginia on December 26, 1878. Growing up in Portsmouth which was a port city and had a very large U.S. Navy population fostered an interest in the Navy in a young John Connor. When he was a teenager John left home and joined the United States Navy. During his career in the Navy, John served in the Spanish-American War. Connor served as a ward-room steward because at this time in history, African Americans could only serve in non-combat positions.



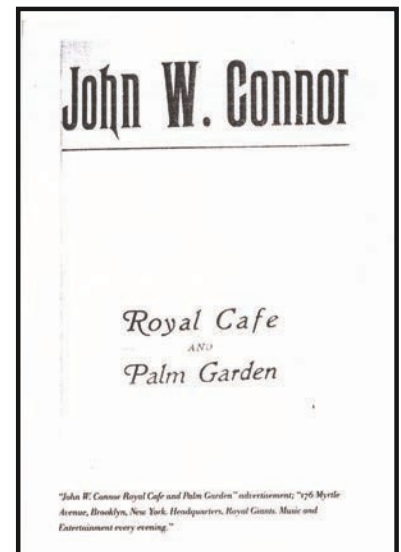
**Spanish American War**

**United States Navy  
(1898)**

His humble upbringing and military background instilled in him a strong work ethic and made him a very hard worker who focused on success in everything he did.

After mustering out of the Navy, Connor headed north to New York City to seek his fame and fortune. Eventually he entered the restaurant business in Harlem. After several years of hard work John ended up owning and operating the Royal Cafe and Palm Garden which was located at 176 Myrtle Avenue in Brooklyn, New York. The eating and entertainment establishment was known for good food, entertainment and live music. The Royal Cafe and Palm Garden made John Connor a very rich man with a prestigious position in the New York City business world. He was one of the African Americans to own and operate a highly successful restaurant and night club in Harlem. Connor also owned the Porter's Club.

Negro League historians and researchers disagree with the spelling of Connor's last name. Three different spellings have been found. They are as follows Connor, Connors and Conner. The Center for Negro League Baseball Research (CNLBR) believes his last name was spelled "Connor." Our position on the spelling of his last name comes from how his name was presented in Sol White's landmark book Sol White's History of Colored Baseball with Other Documents on the Early Black Game, 1886-1936 that was published in 1907. White spells John's last name as "Connor" and the advertisement that Connor put in the book for his Royal Cafe and Palm Garden restaurant lists his name as "John W. Connor." Connor placed and paid for the ad that appears on page 83 of the reprint edition of Sol White's book and he should have known how to spell his own last name.      **Advertisement**



**Sol White's Book  
(1907)**

During his baseball career John W. Connor founded the Brooklyn Royal Giants which he owned and operated from 1904 through most of the 1913 season. He was also partnered with Baron Wilkins to own and operate the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants from 1919 to 1921 and the

Bacharach Giants of New York during the 1922 season. John Connor represented the “new” black leadership that was developing in baseball, the growing group of black entrepreneurs in the United States and personified the “new” black middle class.

Unlike most owners of black baseball teams of his time, John W. Connor was African American and had never been a ball player. Connor is recognized as one of the first African American business men to promote and help make the game of black baseball successful in the United States. He also served as an excellent role model for future black owners of black teams.

In his book, Sol White had the following to say about John Connor:

“J.W. Connor was the second race man to gain prominence as an owner of a professional ball club. Mr. Connor played a noble part in keeping the game before the public. Like all true baseball men, he loved the game and went the limit for the grand old sport.”

John W. Connor was considered a very trustworthy and humble man. He was extremely well respected as both a businessman and baseball team owner. Connor was also one of the few African American owners of his time of a top black baseball team in the United States.

In addition John Connor was very focused on civic responsibility. He was an active participant in the following fraternal organizations in the New York City area: Brooklyn Lodge of Elks, the Kapaganda Lodge of Masons and the Odd Fellows.

### **Negro League Career**

Even though he had never played baseball, John Connor had a true love and passion for the game. This interest resulted in him forming his own team in 1904 that he called the “Brooklyn Royal Giants.” The name for his new team was taken in part from his highly successful restaurant the Brooklyn Royal Cafe which was located in Brooklyn (NY).

Connor’s team called Washington Park their home stadium. Washington Park was located at First and Third Streets in Brooklyn, New York. It was also the home of the Brooklyn Superbras of the National League.



**Washington Park  
Home of the Brooklyn Royal Giants**

**Brooklyn, New York**

The Brooklyn Royal Giants started out as a local ball club playing the majority of their games on the weekends in New York and New Jersey against predominately white semiprofessional teams. From the very beginning Connor operated his “new” team under the same basic premise that black baseball had always operated under – go where the money was. In addition his plan involved expanding the team’s market and fan base into multiple locations.

William Parker is credited with managing the Brooklyn Royal Giants during their inaugural season in 1904. Rube Barnes (2B), Gus “Nux” James (3B), Big Bill Smith (C) and George Wright (SS) were considered the team’s top players in 1904. Ross Best and William Warrick were two of the Royal Giants pitchers during the 1904 season.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants got very limited press coverage during their first season. One of the first Royal Giants games reported in the newspaper was a 13-9 win over the Elm Field Club of New Jersey. Currently only a handful of box scores have been found for Connor’s squad during their first season.

After what appears to have been an unimpressive 1904 season, Connor knew he had to make changes if he wanted to field a top level ball club. His first order of business was replacing his manager William Parker with Big Bill Smith. Next, Connor turned his attention to his roster and signed several new players. Among the new players that Connor signed who would have a significant impact on the team were Andrew “Jap” Payne (OF), George “Chappie” Johnson (C), Al Robinson (1B) and James Robinson (OF). Holdovers W. “Nux” James (3B), Big Bill Smith (2B) and George Wright (SS) were also in the Royal Giants’ starting lineup.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants also had a brand new starting pitching rotation for the 1905 season. Harry Buckner, Lefty “Pop” Andrews, Bill Merritt and William Warrick comprised

the starting rotation for the 1905 Brooklyn Royal Giants.



**Andrew “Jap” Payne**  
Brooklyn Royal Giants  
(1905)

Connor’s Royal Giants played an independent schedule during the 1905 season. A high percentage of their games appeared to have been played against local white semi-professional teams. Like in 1904 newspaper coverage of the team was very limited, so identifying their overall won-loss record for the season or determining just how good they really were is extremely difficult.

In September of 1905 John Connor’s Brooklyn Royal Giants and Walter Schlichter’s Philadelphia Giants met for a three game “championship series.” Originally according to an article that was published in the New York American on September 2<sup>nd</sup> the Philadelphia Giants and E.B. Lamar’s All-Cubans were preparing to play a three game “championship series.” Schlichter had proposed a five game series that was to be played in New York City and Philadelphia with a winner take all stipulation. E.B. Lamar countered with a nine or ten game series that would be played on a 60/40 split. This meant that the winner of each game would get 60 % of the gate and the loser would get 40 %. Walter Schlichter would not back down from his winner take all position and it appears that the series between the Philadelphia Giants and All-Cubans never did take place. Schlichter turned next to the Cuban X-Giants but could not work out a deal.

When Walter Schlichter could not book a “championship series” with the Cuban X-Giants or the All-Cubans, Walter turned his attention to booking a series with the John Connor’s Brooklyn Royal Giants who were probably the fourth best team in the East during the 1905 season. A three game “championship series” between Philadelphia and Brooklyn was held from September 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of 1905.



**Philadelphia Giants (1905)** (Standing left to right – Grant “Homerun” Johnson, Andrew “Rube” Foster, Emmett Bowman, Walter Schlichter, Sol White. Pete Booker and Charlie Grant. Seated left to right – Dan McClellan, Pete Hill, Tom Washington, Harry “Mike” Moore and William “Bill” Monroe) The rosters for the two championship contenders were as follows:

**Philadelphia Giants**

**Brooklyn Royal Giants**

Sol White	1B
Charlie Grant	2B
Grant “Homerun” Johnson	SS
Harry “Mike” Moore	3B
Pete Booker	C
Pete Hill	OF
Emmett “Bill” Bowman	OF
Dan McClellan	OF
Emmett Bowman	P
Andrew “Rube” Foster	P
Dan McClellan	P

Al Robinson	1B
Ingersol	2B
George Wright	SS
U. Johnson	3B
Chappie Johnson	C
Andrew “Jap” Payne	OF
W. Nux James	OF
Brown	OF
B. Merritt	P
Pop Andrews	P
William Warwick	P

The Philadelphia Giants dominated their series with the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Game one of the series was played in Atlantic City at Inlet Park with 1,200 fans in the stands. Emmett Bowman took the mound for Philadelphia and pitched a 2-0 shutout. Brooklyn played significantly better in game two but still lost. The game was a hard fought contest that went back and forth with Philadelphia coming away with a 7-6 victory. The Philadelphia Giants completed a three game sweep of the Royal Giants backed by solid hitting and the pitching of Dan McClellan who scattered eight hits and only gave up two runs. Philadelphia won game three by a score of 7-2. The Philadelphia Giants series win gave them the title of the “Colored Champions of the East.” A summary of the series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Atlantic City	Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia	2-0	Emmett Bowman	B. Merritt
2	Philadelphia	Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia	7-6	Rube Foster	-

Even though the Philadelphia-Brooklyn series was more like a “playoff series” between two of the top teams in the East, the Philadelphia Giants used their victory to declare their second straight “Colored World’s Championship.”

The top teams in the East during the 1905 baseball season were the Philadelphia Giants, Cuban X Giants, All Cubans and the Brooklyn Royal Giants.

**Connor Signs Grant Johnson to Manage the Royal Giants**

After being soundly defeated by Philadelphia Giants for the “Colored Championship of the East” in 1905, John Connor knew his job of building a solid long term winning ball club was still not complete. In an effort to bolster his line-up and bring in strong leadership to manage the team, Connor hired Grant “Home Run” Johnson away from the Philadelphia Giants to be his starting shortstop and the team’s manager for the 1906 season. In addition John Connor also signed the following players to strengthen the Royal Giants roster: Jack Emery (P), Robert Foots (C), Bill Holland (P/3B), Eugene Milliner (OF) and Bill Monroe (3B).

It is important to note that some researchers list Grant “Homerun” Johnson as also playing for the Philadelphia Giants during the 1906 season. From our perspective we do not feel this is true. The confusion most likely comes from the fact that in one famous picture of the 1906 Philadelphia Giants in their World’s Championship jerseys, several players in the photo have been misidentified and the player listed as Grant Johnson is really not him. In addition research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark place Grant with the Brooklyn Royal Giants when they opened the season on May 6<sup>th</sup> and he was also with them when they closed out their season in September.

Box scores for twenty-nine (29) games for the Brooklyn Royal Giants have been located by Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team. Based on the analysis of these statistics, Bill Monroe (.370), Grant “Homerun” Johnson (.363), Andrew “Jap” Payne (.330), Eugene Milliner (.306) and James Robinson (.288) were Brooklyn’s leading hitters. Bill Merritt and Bill Holland were the team’s top two pitchers in 1906. Also pitching for the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1906 were Lefty “Pop” Andrews, Charles “Kid” Carter, Jack Emory, Cannon Ball Miller and Jim Abbott.

Some of the other veteran ball players that appeared for Brooklyn during the 1906 season were William Binga (OF), Robert Footes (C), W. “Nux” James (2B), George “Chappie” Johnson (1B), John W. “Pat” Patterson (OF) and Al Robinson (1B).



**Grant “Homerun” Johnson**  
Brooklyn Royal Giants



**Brooklyn Royal Giants  
(1906)**

**(John W. Connor –  
seated third from right)**

### **Three Team Double Header for the “Colored Championship” Brooklyn Royal Giants, Chicago Union Giants and Leland Giants**

In early May of 1906 the Chicago Tribune announced that the Brooklyn Royal Giants, Chicago Union Giants and Leland Giants would play a three team double header on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Auburn Park in Chicago (IL) for the “Colored Championship” (whatever that meant).

Game one was played between the Brooklyn Royal Giants and the Chicago Union Giants. Behind the brilliant shut out pitching of Jack Emery, the Brooklyn Royal Giants took the first game of the double header by a score of 2-0.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants faced off against the Leland Giants in game two. The Leland Giants scored first and held a 2-0 lead going into the seventh inning. Brooklyn scored two runs in the seventh and one run in their half of the ninth inning to come away with a 3-2 win and the “Colored Championship” title.

This was also the Brooklyn Royal Giants first Midwestern barnstorming tour.

Brooklyn played its home games during the 1906 season at the following three ball parks: Brighton Oval, Saratoga Park and Washington Park. Over the course of the next several years, they would also play home games at Dexter Park, Olympic Field (Harlem), the Bronx Oval and Meyerrose Park. From newspaper accounts it appears that the Brooklyn Royal Giants held their own against the better black teams in the East and dominated lower level competition. According to research by Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team, the Brooklyn Royal Giants were probably the third best black team in the East during the 1906 season. Grant Johnson’s former team, the Philadelphia Giants, were still the best black team in the East and the “World’s Colored Champions” in 1906 with a won-loss record of 134-21 (.865). Philadelphia had also won the majority of games they had played against the top teams in the East and had defeated both the Chicago Unions and Leland Giants of the West. According to Negro League historian, Sol White, the next best three teams in the East after the Philadelphia Giants were in rank order the Cuban XGiants, Brooklyn Royal Giants and the Wilmington Giants.



**Brooklyn Royal Giants (1906)**

(Back row standing left to right – Bill Merritt, James Robinson, **Grant “Home Run” Johnson**, Lefty “Pop” Andrews, Al Robinson, Harry Brown and **Eugene Milliner**. Front row seated left to right – **Andrew “Jap” Payne**, Nux James, **John W. Connor**, Billy Holland and Charles “Kid” Carter.)

Other top black teams that played within a 100 mile radius of Brooklyn during the 1906 season were the Baltimore Giants of Newark, Cuban Stars, Cuban X-Giants, Genuine Cuban Giants, Havana Stars, Keystone Giants of Philadelphia, New York Giants, Philadelphia Giants, Quaker Giants of New York and the Wilmington Giants.

It was during the 1906 season that the Brooklyn Royal Giants established what would become a long standing rivalry with Walter Schlichter’s Philadelphia Giants. Schlichter’s squad was the team to beat and John Connor wanted his Brooklyn Royal Giants to be the best team in black baseball.

One of the highlights of the 1906 season for Brooklyn was when in post season play they faced off against the Philadelphia Athletics who had finished in second place in the American League for the 1906 Major League season. Major Leaguers Eddie Plank (19-6) and Rube Wadell (15-17) pitched for the Athletics but were no match for John Connor’s Royal Giants hitters. The Brooklyn Royal Giants won both of the games.

On October 22, 1906 the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba (NACBC) was formed in Brooklyn, New York. Over the three years that the association was in existence, the following teams played in the “league”: Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Giants of New York, Cuban Stars of Havana, Cuban X-Giants and the Philadelphia Giants. Walter Schlichter, owner of the Philadelphia Giants, served as the President and John W. Connor, owner of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, was the Vice President. Other league officials included J.M. Bright (Treasurer – Cuban Giants), Manuel Camps (President of Board of Trustees – Cuban Stars), E.B. Lamar, Jr. (Trustee – Cuban X-Giants) and Nat C. Strong (Secretary of Board – New York promoter). The primary goal of the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs was to bring organization, stability and profitability to “colored” baseball.

## Grant Johnson Returns to the Brooklyn Royal Giants

When the 1907 regular season got underway, Grant Johnson was back with the Brooklyn Royal Giants as the team's player/manager. Luis Bustamante (.364), Eugene Milliner (.303), Harry Buckner (.296) and Grant Johnson (.282) were the team's leading hitters for the 1907 season. Also on the roster for Brooklyn were veterans George "Chappie" Johnson (C), W.

"Nux" James (2B), John Hill (3B), Robert Jordan (1B), Bill Monroe (3B) and John W. "Pat" Patterson (OF). The pitching staff for the Royal Giants included Harry Buckner, Bill Holland and Bill Merritt.

**ATLANTIC CITY IS SHUT OUT.**

For the First Time in Their History the Collegians Are Blanked Without a Hit or a Run—Royal Giants Did the Stunt.

Atlantic City special: For the first time in the history of seashore baseball, the Atlantic Collegians were shut out without a run or hit. Buckner, the doughy pitcher of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, performing the feat at the Inlet Park this afternoon before a large crowd.

"Buck" was in great form, and barring two bases on balls and H's error, the visitors played perfectly. But twenty-nine batters faced Buckner, and the contest was cleanly played throughout.

Gaiser, for the Atlantics, pitched fairly well after the third inning, when six successive hits netted the Royals four runs of the earned variety. The Baltimore Eastern Leaguers play here Monday and Tuesday. The score:

	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Kelly, 3b.	0	0	1	1	0
Curtis, cf.	0	0	1	0	0
Smith, 2b.	0	0	5	3	0
Flynn, rf.	0	0	0	0	0
Perkins, lf.	0	0	3	0	0
Frye, 1b.	0	0	5	0	0
O'Hara, ss.	0	0	4	3	3
Whalen, c.	0	0	3	0	0
Gaiser, p.	0	0	0	6	0
Dowd, 2b.	0	0	2	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ROYAL GIANTS.</b>					
Johnson, ss.	1	2	2	0	0
Patterson, lf.	1	2	1	0	0
Buckner, p.	1	1	0	3	0
Miller, rf.	1	1	1	0	0
Jordan, 1b.	0	1	1	1	0
James, 2b.	0	1	0	2	0
Hill, 3b.	1	2	2	1	1
Johnson, c.	0	1	5	1	0
Merritt, cf.	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>
Atlantic City	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Giants	0	4	0	1	0
Earned runs, Royal Giants 4. Double plays, Dowd, Smith and O'Hara. Stolen base, Milliner. Struck out, by Gaiser 2, by Buckner 5. Left on bases, Atlantic City 2, Royal Giants 7. First base on called balls, off Gaiser 1, off Buckner 2. First base on errors, Atlantic City 1, Royal Giants 3. Wild pitch, Gaiser. Time, 1:40. Umpire, Stanton. Attendance, 1,125.					

During the 1907 season John Connor brought his team back to Washington Park to play the majority of their home games.

The highlight of the season for Connor's Royal Giants was a four team "championship series" that they played in along with the Philadelphia Giants Cuban Giants and Cuban Stars. The agreement was that all four teams would play each other five times during the season and the team with the most wins would be declared the "Colored Champions." The final order of finish was the Philadelphia Giants (1<sup>st</sup> place), Cuban Giants (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Brooklyn Royal Giants (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Cuban Stars (4<sup>th</sup> place).

Another highlight of the season for Brooklyn came on August 31<sup>st</sup> when Harry Buckner pitched a no-hitter against the Atlantic Collegians who were a top semiprofessional team. The Royal Giants won the game by a score of 5-0.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants had a good season and were considered the third best team in the East during the 1907 season. The Philadelphia Giants led by the hitting of Pete Hill and the pitching of Dan McClellan were the top team in the East. The Cuban Giants are generally considered the second best team in the East for the 1907 season.

After two years of being a good team, John Connor and Grant Johnson were determined to take their team to the next level. In order to do that Connor and Johnson revamped the starting lineup by signing the following "new" position players: Harry Brown (1B), Sam Mongin (2B), Ashby Dunbar (OF), Jules Thomas (OF/P) and Kid Boots (OF). The biggest addition to Johnson's team was Charles "Frank" Earle who became the ace of the pitching staff. Holdover players that contributed to the Royal Giants overall improvement of the 1907 Royal Giants were Phil Bradley (C/OF), W. "Nux" James (C), Grant "Home Run" Johnson (SS), Bill Monroe (3B) and Harry Buckner (P).

### Harry Buckner

Hurls No-Hitter

Chicago Defender 08-31-

07

Besides major changes in the roster and starting line-up, the Brooklyn Royal Giants changed their home field stadium from Washington Park to Meyerrose Park.



**Harry Buckner**  
Brooklyn Royal Giants  
(1908)

The leading hitters for the 1908 Brooklyn Royal Giants were Ashby Dunbar (.381), Kid Boots (.364), W. “Nux” James (.347), Bill Monroe (.337), Jules Thomas (.320), Grant Johnson (.312), Charles Earle (.312) and Harry Buckner (.292). Other players who filled out the starting line-up were Phil Bradley (C), Harry “Mike” Brown (1B) and Sam Monigan (2B).

Charles Earle (8-2 w/ 2.71 ERA) was the ace of the pitching staff with Harry Buckner (6-3 w/ 2.74 ERA) making a strong showing in games against top level competition. Also pitching for the Royal Giants during the 1908 season were Jules Thomas, Thompson (no first name), Lefty “Pop” Andrews and Ridley (no first name).

With excellent hitting up and down the batting order and solid pitching, the Brooklyn Royal Giants were considered the best team in the East by the end of the 1908 season. Connor had finally achieved his goal for his team in replacing the Philadelphia Giants as the powerhouse in the East. In addition the Brooklyn Royal Giants were the champions of the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba (NACBC). The final “league” standings for the 1908 season were as follows:

**National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba (1908)**

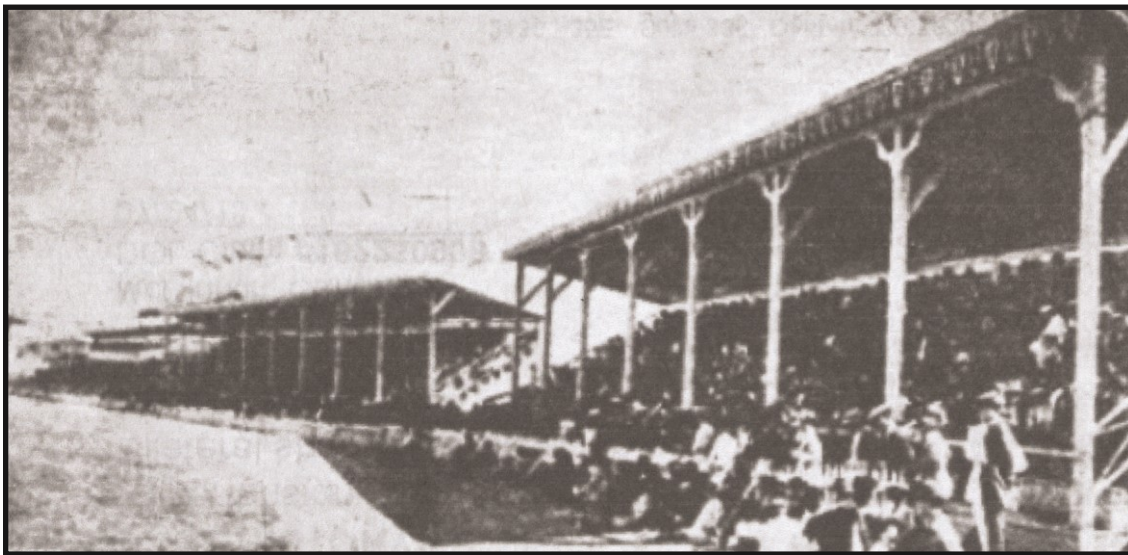
Team	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Place
Brooklyn Royal Giants	19	10	1	.655	1 <sup>st</sup>
Philadelphia Giants	16	15	0	.516	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Cuban Giants	6	12	1	.333	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Cuban Stars	3	7	0	.300	4 <sup>th</sup>

**Royal Giants Travel to Cuba**

After the regular 1908 season had concluded, John Connor sent his team to Cuba to play in the American Series against the two best teams in Cuban baseball (Almendares and Habana). All the games of the American Series were played in Almendares Park.

Prior to traveling to Cuba for the start of the American Series, the Brooklyn Royal Giants added Pete Hill (Philadelphia Giants), Jude Gans (Cuban Giants), Agustin Parpetti (Cuban Stars) and Ricardo Hernandez (Cuban Stars) to their roster.

The opening game of the American Series was played on October 10<sup>th</sup> with the Brooklyn Royal Giants facing off against Almendares with the legendary Jose Mendez on the mound. Mendez lived up to his reputation and the Royal Giants went down in defeat by a score of 3-2. The series concluded play on November 11<sup>th</sup> with Brooklyn playing Almendares. Just like in their first meeting, the Royal Giants lost. This time Brooklyn lost by a score of 8-3.



**Almendares Park**  
Havana, Cuba

During the American Series the Royal Giants got good pitching from Harry Buckner (4-3 w/ 2.54 ERA), Jude Gans (2-2 w/ 3.26 ERA) and Charles Earle (2-3 w/ 3.73 ERA). The problem for Brooklyn was that the Cuban pitchers dominated the Royal Giants' hitters. Brooklyn went just 95 for 465 for a meager team batting average of .204 for the series. Pete Hill (.269) was the only member of the Royal Giants who came close to delivering at the plate.

The final order of finish in the 1908 American Series was Almendares (5-4), Brooklyn Royal Giants (8-8) and Habana (3-4).

After the conclusion of the American Series, the Brooklyn Royal Giants played an exhibition game at Almendares Park against the Cincinnati Reds of the National League. The game was played on November 20<sup>th</sup> and was considered the highlight of the 1908 Cuban winter baseball season. Harry Bucker pitched a marvelous game and the Royal Giants gave their Major League opponent a decisive beating. The Brooklyn Royal Giants came away with a convincing 9-1 victory.

### **Royal Giants Field Another Championship Team**

John Connor retained Grant "Homerun" Johnson as the player-manager for the Brooklyn Royal Giants to start the 1909 season and help them defend their "Colored Champions of the East" title. The Royal Giants returned the same basic team and starting line-up that helped them achieve so much success the year before. They also continued to call Meyerrose Park their home field. Box scores for the 1909 season have been very difficult to find; therefore, no meaningful hitting and pitching statistics for Brooklyn players can be presented. We do know that Harry Buckner and Charles Earle were the team's top two pitchers during their 1909 championship season and the Brooklyn Royal Giants fielded a strong starting line-up that included:

#### **Brooklyn Royal Giants (1909)**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Player</b>
1B	Al Robinson/Emmett Bowman	OF	Ashby Dunbar
2B	Bill Monroe	OF	Nux James
SS	Grant "Homerun" Johnson	OF	Jules Thomas
3B	Sam Mongin		
C	Phil Bradley	P	Charles Earle

P Harry Buckner

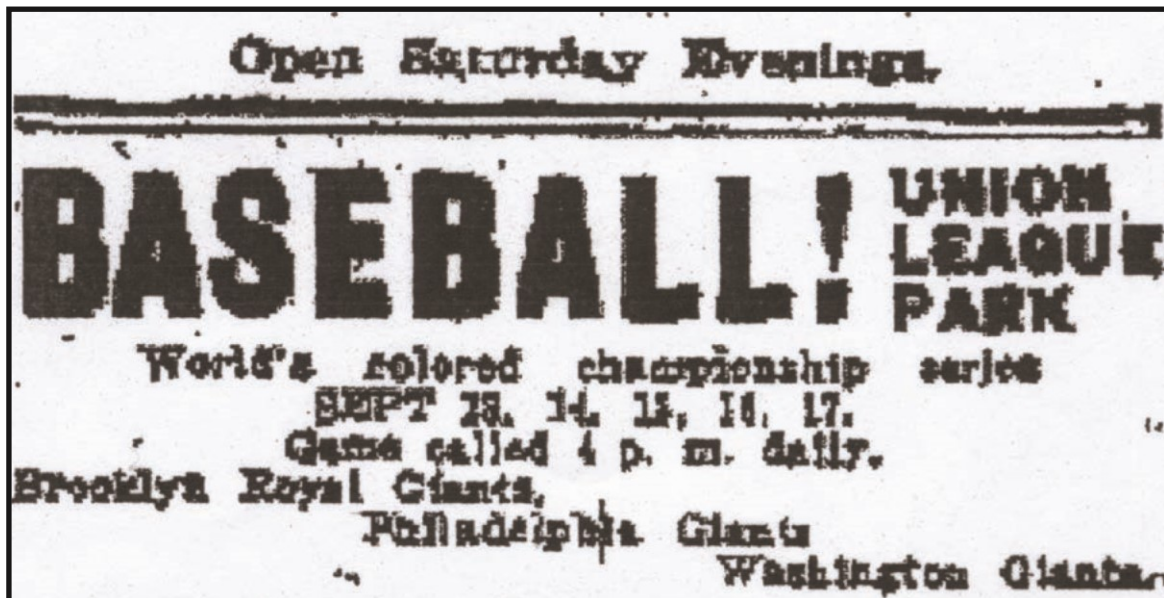
P Emmett Bowman

### **Brooklyn Royal Giants Repeat as the Colored Champions of the East**

The New York Age reported on September 02, 1909 that the Brooklyn Royal Giants would play the Cuban Stars in a “championship series.” Five games were scheduled to determine the supremacy of black baseball in the East. The series was scheduled to be played on consecutive weekends in ball parks that were controlled by the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of United States and Cuba (NACBC).

Game one was played at the Bronx Oval with 6,000 fans in attendance. Charles Earle took the mound for the Royal Giants and Luis Padron was the starting pitcher for the Cuban Stars. The Brooklyn Royal Giants won the opening game of the series by a score of 5-3. Earle was the starting pitcher for the Royal Giants in game two and faced Cuban Stars ace Jose Mendez. In a pitcher’s duel Earl defeated Mendez by a score of 2-1. Luis Padron came back in game three and got the win for the Cuban Stars by a score of 4-2. Game four saw Charles Earle face off against Luis Padron. The Brooklyn Royal Giants defeated the Cuban Stars 5-3 to take the series and the title of “Colored Champions of the East.” Charles Earle was the hero for Brooklyn, as he won all three games he started.

After their defeat of the Cuban Stars the Brooklyn Royal Giants and Washington Giants played another self-appointed “World’s Colored Championship” series.. The five game series was played on September 13-17 at Union Park in Baltimore, Maryland.



#### **Brooklyn Royal Giants vs Washington Giants**

“World’s Colored Champions”

Washington Post

09-12-09

Both the Kansas City Giants and St. Paul Gophers claimed the “Colored World’s Championship” in 1909 because both teams had defeated the Leland Giants. It is, however, important to note that neither Kansas City nor St. Paul played John Connor’s Brooklyn Royal Giants during the season,

so it what have been very easy for John Connor to declare his team the “Colored World’s Champion.”

Without a doubt there is no question that the Brooklyn Royal Giants had an excellent season in 1909. They finished the season as the “Colored Champions of the East” and also won the “Colored World’s Championship” when they defeated the Philadelphia Giants in their championship series.

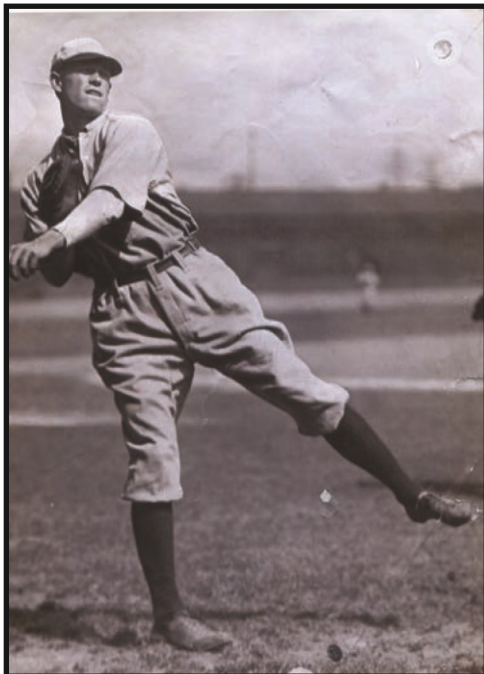
Grant Johnson led Brooklyn Royal Giants to a repeat as the champions of the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba. The final “league” standings for the 1909 season were as follows:

**National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba (1909)**

Team	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Place
Brooklyn Royal Giants	9	3	0	.750	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cuban Stars	8	5	0	.615	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Philadelphia Giants	6	12	0	.333	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Cuban Giants	0	3	0	.000	4 <sup>th</sup>

The National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba (NACBC) was embroiled in controversy all season. First, Sol White of the Quaker Giants (Philadelphia) attempted to persuade John Connor to drop out of the NACBC and help him form a new association with John “Pop” Watkins and J.M. Bright. Then the association split into two factions with John Connor, Pop Watkins and J.M. Bright on one side. The other faction included Nat Strong, Walter Schlichter and E.B. Lamar. Then to make matters even worse, Nat Strong controlled all the game bookings for the All Havanas, Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Giants, Cuban Stars and the Philadelphia Giants.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants played into the winter of 1909. The Freeman newspaper reported on December 25<sup>th</sup> a game between the Royal Giants and Hal Chase’s New York Americans. The Royal Giants beat the Americans who had several Major League ball players on their team by a score of 9-5. Harry Buckner picked up the win and helped his effort by collecting three hits of his own.



**Hal Chase**  
New York Americans

**Brooklyn Royal Giants Travel to Florida**

In January of 1910 John Connor sent his Brooklyn Royal Giants south to Florida to represent the Breakers Hotel in the Florida Hotel League. The only other team in the “league” was the Royal Poinciana Hotel team who were represented by the Leland Giants. The Florida Hotel League was formed as a means to help entertain the wealthy guests who stayed at the resort hotels in Florida during the winter. The hotels would hire black ball players come to Florida during the winter months where the players would be employed as bellmen, waiters, bus boys, cooks and in other service positions. Then on the weekends they would play baseball for their respective hotel. For the players it was a good paying winter job and for the team owners it was like getting spring training for free. The resort hotels benefited from the arrangement by presenting a very popular attraction (black baseball) to their guests.

**RADICAL CHANGE IN BASEBALL SCHEDULE.**

Royal Giants Lose Captain Johnson. Cuban Giants Will Open Season in New York May 1.

We are reliably informed that a radical change has taken place in the schedule for this season among baseball clubs and players. Jack Johnson, who as captain of the Royal Giants led them to victory for two successive seasons, has booked with the Leland Giants at Chicago.

Satterfield, second baseman; Bragg, third baseman; Clarence Williams, catcher; Robinson, first baseman; Mike Brown, outfielder, and Reese, pitcher, have been signed by Manager Bright of the Cuban Giants.

Lloyd, who has been the heavy hitting shortstop of the Philadelphia Giants for some years, will cast his fortunes with Rube Foster's Chicago outfit. Owner Walter Schlichter of the Philadelphia Giants has captured from "Pop" Watkins the two fast Addison boys and has signed the best general in colored baseball as manager in the person of Sol White.

Manager J. W. Connor, not to be outdone, has secured the services of several fast youngsters and will retain in his lineup such stars as Dradley, Monroe, Buckner, Earl, James, Thomas, Bowman, Mongin, Shipp and Lunbar.

The Cuban Giants, the pioneer of the colored teams, will open their season in New York on May 1 with the McNulty Brothers' club as their opponents. The Cuban Giants will play for the most of the season at Buffalo, where they have new grounds.

There is considerable competition for the services of Dan McClellan, undoubtedly the best pitcher in colored baseball, and the indications are that he will remain with the Philadelphia Giants. Francis, the crack third baseman; Petway, catcher, and Ray Wilson, first baseman, will also be with the Quaker team.

Harry Buckner, Charles Earle and Dan McClellan headed up the team for the Breakers Hotel. Andrew "Rube" Foster, Pete Hill and John Henry "Pop" Lloyd were the top players for the Royal Poinciana Hotel.

Current research has revealed that the two teams played each other eight (8) times during the month long season. Each team won three games and two games ended in a tie.

### National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba Disbands

The National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba (NACBC) had brought a semblance of order to black baseball in the East from 1907 through the 1909 season. However, all the internal conflicts that had been developed over its three years of operation came to a head prior to the start of the 1910 season. These problems culminated in the NACBC being disbanded before the start of the 1910 baseball season.

### A Rift Develops Between Connor and Johnson

After having led the Brooklyn Royal Giants to back to back championship seasons and winning three titles in 1909 for Connor's team, Grant Johnson thought he deserved to own a piece of the team. Johnson also felt his play on the field had been exemplary over the years and that his leadership had transformed the Brooklyn Royal Giants into a top level team. According to news reports, John Connor was completely taken off guard by Johnson's demand.

Both Connor and Johnson were right. John Connor had spent a lot of money to sign outstanding ball players. Grant Johnson's skills as a ball player were invaluable to Brooklyn on the playing field and as a manager Grant had developed the players into a very successful team. In reality, Connor should have found a way to reward Grant Johnson for all he had done for the team

Afro American and Johnson should not have taken an unreasonable position of 04-23-10demanding to become a part owner of a team in

which he had

put in no financial backing.

John Connor's first response to Johnson's demands according to the New York Age newspaper was to try to trade Grant Johnson to the Philadelphia Giants for John Henry "Pop" Lloyd. When the deal fell through, John Connor's response to Grant Johnson was reported as follows in the media:

"For the last two years I have spent thousands of dollars to furnish New York with a champion team and did not think that I should give away an interest in this team."

When John W. Connor refused to give him an ownership element in the Royal Giants, Grant left the Royal Giants to sign with Rube Foster's Leland Giants. The rift between Connor and Johnson got even worse when Connor accused Johnson of trying to take players with him when he signed with the Leland Giants.

During all the commotion that was created by Connor and Johnson, Al Robinson who had been the starting first baseman for the Brooklyn Royal Giants during the 1905-1906 and 1908-1909 seasons quietly left the team and signed with the Cuban Giants.

### Sol White Joins the Brooklyn Royal Giants

With Grant Johnson out of the picture, John Connor hired Sol White to manage the ball club. The Brooklyn Royal Giants continued to call Meyerrose Park home for the 1910 season.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants appear to have fielded a very strong hitting team during the 1910 season. Phil Bradley (C), Harry Buckner (OF), Ashby Dunbar (OF),

Charles Earle (OF/P), W. "Nux" James (2B), Sam Mongin (3B) and Jules Thomas (OF) were the leading hitters for the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1910. The starting pitching rotation for Brooklyn during the season was made up of Lefty "Pop" Andrews, Harry Buckner and Charles Earle.



In mid-August of 1910 John Connor was faced with internal problems on the team that centered around several disgruntled players. The New York Age newspaper reported on August 18<sup>th</sup> that several key players were considering jumping (signing) to another

Sol White

Brooklyn Royal Giants

Freeman

05-21-10

team. Connor's response was very straight forward. His position was that if any players left to go to another team, it wouldn't be that hard to replace them. Connor was evidently very persuasive because all of the Brooklyn Royal Giants players finished out the remainder of the season.

The top teams in the East during the 1910 season were the Philadelphia Giants, Brooklyn Royal Giants and Cuban Stars. The top teams in the West were Leland Giants (they boasted a record of 123-6 for the season), Cuban Stars (Stars of Cuba), Chicago Giants, West Baden Sprudels, Kansas City Giants and St. Louis Giants.

### Sol White Leaves Brooklyn

Prior to the start of the 1911 season Sol White left the Brooklyn Royal Giants to help the McMahon brothers organize the Lincoln Giants. In addition Connor also lost the services of Harry Buckner (P), Phil Bradley (C) and Sam Mongin (3B) before the start of the season. Shortly after the 1911 season got underway, Bill Monroe (2B/SS) also left the team

To replace Sol White as the manager of the team, Connor promoted Charles Earle to become the team's player/manager. Connor also brought in the following players to replace the players who had left the team: Sam Crawford (P), Bill Handy (SS), Bill Kindle (2B) and Big Bill Smith (C).

Leading the team in hitting for the 1911 season were Emmett Bowman (3B), Ashby Dunbar (OF), Bill Handy (SS), Bill Kindle (2B), Al Robinson (1B) and Jules Thomas (OF). Currently complete box scores have been found for only a small group of games played by the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1911. In this group of games as a team the Royal Giants went 159 for 503 for a .316 team batting average.

The pitching staff for Brooklyn in 1911 included Lefty "Pop" Andrews, Sam Crawford, Charles Earle and Gifford McDonald.

The Brooklyn Royal Giants started their 1911 season in April with a barnstorming tour of the South and Midwest. Stops of the southern portion of their tour included Birmingham, Hot Springs (AR), Jacksonville, Memphis, Mobile (AL) and New Orleans. After they had finished touring the southern states, the Royal Giants headed north and played games in St. Louis, French Lick (IN), West Baden (IN), Detroit and Buffalo before returning home to Brooklyn. According to newspaper articles that appeared in the Chicago Tribune and New York Age, the Brooklyn Royal Giants played forty-six (46) games on the tour and compiled a magnificent won-loss record of 433 (.935).

If losing Grant Johnson and then Sol White as the team's manager did not cause John Connor enough concern and worry, bookings also became a major problem. Back when there was still an NACBC organization, John Connor had gone outside Nat Strong's control of the booking and scheduling of games and had begun to book games on his games with "outlaw" teams. These were teams not sanctioned by the NACBC and not approved by Nat Strong who for all practical purposes controlled black baseball bookings in the East. As time would go on, game bookings for John Connor would become scarcer and would result in him losing money.

Hoping to cash in on the significant rise in the African American population in New York City, John Connor set his attention to securing a long term home ball park for his team. According to the 1910 United States Census, the black population in New York City had risen from 60,666 in 1900 to 91,709 in 1910. This was an increase of over 50 %. The largest concentration of the black population in the New York City area was in Harlem. On July 20, 1911 the New York Age reported that John Connor had secured a five year lease on the Harlem Oval located at 142<sup>nd</sup> Street and Lennox Avenue. According to the New York Age when John Connor leased the Harlem Oval, he became the first African American to have complete control over a major ball park in the New York City area. Once Connor had leased the stadium he went about making significant renovations. The two biggest renovations were covering the grandstands and increasing the seating capacity of the stadium by an additional 2,600 seats.

Towards the end of the regular 1911 season, the New York Age newspaper issued an open challenge to play a tournament to crown a "Champion of New York City." The New York Age proposed two black teams (Brooklyn Royal Giants and the Lincoln Giants) and two white teams (New York Yankees of the American League and the New York Giants of the National League) to play in the tournament. Neither of the white teams responded to the challenge and to the disappointment of many black baseball fans in the New York City area, the tournament was never held.

### **Grant Johnson Returns to Brooklyn**

After a two year absence, Grant Johnson returned to the Brooklyn Royal Giants for their 1912 baseball season as the team's player/manager. During the season the Royal Giants played their home games at Ridgewood Grounds and Washington Park. The Brooklyn Royal Giants were considered the third best team in the East for the 1912 season. The New York Lincoln Giants managed by John Henry "Pop" Lloyd was considered the top team in the East in 1912. The Lincoln Giants were led by the hitting of Spottswood Poles and the pitching of Smokey Joe Williams.

Pearl Webster (.373), Grant Johnson (.355), Hurley Mc Nair (.318), Bill Kindle (.316) and Bill Handy (.279) were the team's top hitters for the Brooklyn Royal Giants during the 1912 season. Pop Andrews, Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware, Johnny Goodgame, Hurley McNair, Jesse Shipp and Sam Crawford all pitched for Brooklyn in 1912.

For the second straight year the Brooklyn Royal Giants conducted a barnstorming tour of the Midwest to start the season. During their tour they played the best black and white semiprofessional teams in the areas which they visited. The tour started with a three game series

in St. Louis against the St. Louis Giants. The Brooklyn Royal Giants dropped two of the three games they played in St. Louis. Some of the more impressive wins the Brooklyn Royal Giants registered during the tour included: beat the Kansas City Giants 13-6, won both ends of a double header (game one 7-1 and game two 11-1) over the strong Gunther's club of the Chicago City League and beat the Chicago Giants by a score of 8-3. The Royal Giants also played a six game series during the tour against Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants who were considered one of the best if not the best team in all of black baseball. The series was a disaster for Brooklyn as they dropped all six games to Foster's American Giants. Overall the Brooklyn Royal Giants started the season with a very disappointing performance for the 1912 Midwestern Tour. Thirteen (13) box and line scores have been found for the tour. In these thirteen games the Royal Giants won five games and lost eight.

Grant Johnson did not return as manager for the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1913. John Connor replaced Johnson with Charles Earle. Another change that Connor instituted in 1913 was playing several home games at Olympic Field. Brooklyn also played home games at Ridgewood Grounds in 1913.



**Ridgewood Grounds**

Brooklyn, New York

From the twenty-four (24) box scores that have been located for the Royal Giants in 1913, the team's top hitters were Jules Thomas (.358), Pearl Webster (.324) and Bill Pettus (.304). As a team the Brooklyn Royal Giants batted only .244 (147 for 603) for these twenty-four games.

Going into the 1913 season John Connor did not resign any of the pitchers from the 1912 squad. Instead he signed Frank "Lefty" Harvey, William "Dizzy" Dismukes and Walter Ball to carry the team's pitching load. It appears they only met with marginal success.

According to research by Negro League historian Gary Ashwill, in games against top level competition the Brooklyn Royal Giants appear to have been the third best team in the East for the 1913 season.

### **Nat Strong Takes Over the Brooklyn Royal Giants**

On July 19, 1913 the New York Age reported that John Connor had transferred ownership of the Brooklyn Royal Giants to Nat Strong. The primary reasons cited by John Connor for getting out of baseball were reported as follows:

1. He was tired of getting bad deals from white owners who did not want to give him a percentage of the gate. Evidently Connor was routinely forced to accept a flat guaranteed fee for his team's booking rather than a split of the gate.

2. He was tired of constantly dealing with players threatening to jump their contracts.
3. His substantial investment in the renovation of the Harlem Oval had not paid off like he had anticipated.
4. The Brooklyn Royal Giants which had once been the best black team in the East from 1908 through the 1910 season had only performed at a mediocre level for the past two and a half seasons.

From this researcher's perspective the New York Age reporter's use of the term "transferred" seems a bit unusual. Our main question is – Did any money exchange hands or did Connor receive any compensation from Nat Strong for turning the team over to him?

By acquiring the Brooklyn Royal Giants, Nat Strong was now both the premier sports booking agent in the East and he also owned one of the top black baseball teams in the country.



**Brooklyn Royal Giants (c. 1913-1914)**

Once Strong took ownership of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, he formed a business alliance with James Keenan who owned the Lincoln Giants. Keenan operated his Lincoln Giants out of Harlem in direct competition with the McMahon brothers who owned the Lincoln Stars. Keenan's business relationship with Strong forced the McMahon brothers out of baseball, gave control of black baseball in Harlem to Keenan and strengthened his position in baseball in New York City. Between Strong and Keenan they controlled the best ball parks in New York City and were able to sign the best black ball players in the East. Nat Strong played his most important ball games at Ridgewood Park in Brooklyn and James Keenan played out of Olympic Field in Harlem. The business partnership between Nat Strong and James Keenan made it very difficult for other owners of black teams to operate or play in the New York City area.

### **Atlantic City Bacharach Giants**

The photo featured below is from one of the early Atlantic City Bacharach Giants teams. The year that this team represents is currently unknown. The most interesting component of the picture is that it includes two young ball players who would go on to become superstars in the Negro Leagues. These players are Herbert "Rap" Dixon and Dick Lundy.

Herbert “Rap” Dixon played briefly for the Bacharach Giants in the mid to late 1910’s. His Negro League career began in 1922 when he was signed by the Harrisburg Giants and lasted until 1944 when he managed the Detroit Stars.

Dick Lundy moved north with several other members of the Duval Giants team that formed the first Atlantic City Bacharach Giants squad. Lundy’s professional baseball career lasted from 1916 through the 1941 season when he played for the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Dick also managed the New York Black Yankees.

The identity of the other players and the “white” gentlemen in the sweater are unknown at this time.



**Atlantic City Bacharach Giants**

(**Hebert “Rap” Dixon** – standing third from left and **Dick Lundy** – standing fourth from left)

Being the owner of the Brooklyn Royal Giants further reinforced Nat Strong's ability to schedule games against the best white semi-professional teams, black baseball teams, Major League squads and all-star teams. Nat also had exclusive booking rights to the Cuban Stars and Philadelphia Giants in the New York City area. In addition Nat Strong continued to serve as the president of the Intercity Association of New York. Nat Strong controlled semiprofessional baseball in New York City.



**Nat Strong**

When Nat Strong took over the 1913 Brooklyn Royal Giants they were a solid team with a strong playing history. The Royal Giants were managed by Charles "Frank" Earle. They were an independent team and played many of their home games at the Ridgewood Grounds that was located in the Ridgewood area of Queens (NY).

From 1913 to 1919 John Connor was out of baseball and concentrated all of his efforts on his business interests.

### **John Connor and Baron Wilkins Bail Out the Bacharach Giants**

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were founded in 1916 by Thomas H. Jackson and Henry Tucker when Tucker traveled to Jacksonville (FL) and recruited eight members of the Duval Giants to travel north with him to play ball in Atlantic City. These eight players who formed the nucleus of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were Dick Lundy (3B), Napoleon Cummings (1B), Leroy "Roy" Roberts (P), Dan "Shang" Johnson (P), Willis Crump (OF), Arthur Dilworth (OF), Michael Tucker (OF) and Frank Crockett (OF). The team was named after Harry Bacharach who was the mayor of Atlantic City.

During their first three years (1916-1918) in existence, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were primarily a local team. They played in the Atlantic City Colored League along with the Big Six, Cyclones (team made up of waiters from the St. Charles Hotel), Manhattans, Rudolphs (team made up of wicker cab rollers from the boardwalk) and the Vandal Athletic Club (representing the local black YMCA). In addition the Bacharach Giants also played an independent schedule. From their very first season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants met with tremendous success on the field with impressive won-loss records of 67-14-1 (1916), 60-39-3 (1917) and 25-17-2 (1918). In their very first season of operation they won the title of "Colored Champions of Southern New Jersey." The Bacharach Giants success on the field, however, did not transfer to the financial success of the business. Two of the first signs of the team's impending financial doom were that they played all but three (3) of their games in Atlantic City during the 1918 season and they played 58 less games in 1918 than they had the year before. Things got so bad financially that the Bacharach Giants team ended their season early in August of 1918. After feuding with sports promoter Nat Strong for the first three years of the team's existence, the owners of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were reportedly strapped for cash (reportedly they were close to bankruptcy), had not made very many good baseball connections and had still not made any real progress in getting their team into the New York City baseball market. The New York City baseball market was key to any top level team because New York City was the biggest market for black baseball in the United States. In addition Strong also controlled the bookings for the Brooklyn Royal Giants, Cuban Stars and Lincoln Giants. Not only did Nat keep the Bacharach Giants out of New York City but he also refused to allow teams for which he controlled bookings of playing any games in Atlantic City. Jackson and Tucker's feud with Nat Strong probably had the most devastating impact on the Bacharach Giants because Strong had done everything humanly possible to keep the Bacharach Giants out of "his" territory.

With no other options Jackson and Tucker turned to John W. Connor (owner of the Brooklyn Royal Cafe and Palm Garden) and Baron Wilkins (Harlem night club owner of the prestigious Exclusive Club and several other popular establishments) who were both rich, loved baseball and had great business/sports connections. John Connor also had significant baseball experience from the days when he owned and operated the Brooklyn Royal Giants from 1904 through the midseason of 1913. Baron Wilkins had financed the New York Black Sox (local semi-professional black team in New York City) and several other local ball clubs. In addition Wilkins was also said to have bank rolled the boxing career of World Heavyweight Champion Jack Johnson.



Baron Wilkins

Reportedly both Connor and Wilkins each put up \$ 10,000 (equivalent to over \$ 250,000 today) to finance the team. Baron Wilkins became the president of the team, Connor was named the secretary-treasurer, Tucker became the team booking agent and Jackson appears to have been the odd man out.

Interestingly enough Thomas Jackson's name does appear in a newspaper article that came out on September 20<sup>th</sup> that refers to him as the manager of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. So there does remain a possibility that Thomas Jackson was involved in some capacity with the team during the 1919 season.

In addition to their financial backing, Connor and Wilkins also gave the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants access to the black baseball market in Harlem. John Connor and Baron Wilkins were able to circumvent the control that Nat Strong (sports promoter) and James Keenan (owner of the New York Lincoln Giants) had over baseball in Harlem. This also allowed black ball clubs from the Midwest and Major League all-star teams to play in Harlem. This was very important because from 1914 to 1918 no black team had played a game in New York City.

Connor and Wilkins' plan was for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants to play part of their home games in Atlantic City and part of them in New York City.

### Atlantic City Signs Lloyd and Redding

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants team with John W. Connors and Barron Wilkins now in control was determined to become the best team in the East. The key component to Connor and Wilkins' plan was to sign John Henry "Pop" Lloyd who was one of the best hitters in baseball and Dick "Cannonball" Redding who was one of the most dominant pitchers in all of baseball.

**Redding and Gatewood Bid Strong Good Bye**  
 New York, N. Y., May 16. — Dick Redding and Bill Gatewood, the Royal Giants' star battery, have bid Nathaniel Strong, promoter, baseball magnate, etc., good-bye, as Dick says, good-bye forever. They are signed up with the new team of Baron Wilkins and John Connors, which opens the season at the old Inlet Park, Atlantic City, N. J., Saturday, May 24. Many other well known players have also signed contracts. Their names will appear with the line-up of the team that will appear in this paper next issue. The new grandstand that is being built at the park is nearing completion and will seat close to 6,000 persons.

Dick Redding had just returned home as a war hero and immediately returned to professional baseball. He started the 1919 baseball season with the Brooklyn Royal Giants. On May 19<sup>th</sup> while playing for the Brooklyn Royal Giants Redding pitched in one of the best games of the entire season. The game was played at Olympic Park in Harlem. Cannonball Redding faced off against Smokey Joe Williams of the Lincoln Giants. Redding pitched a two hitter but still lost 1-0 to Williams who countered with a no-hitter. Shortly after this game, Dick Redding signed with the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants.

05-17-19

Chicago Defender

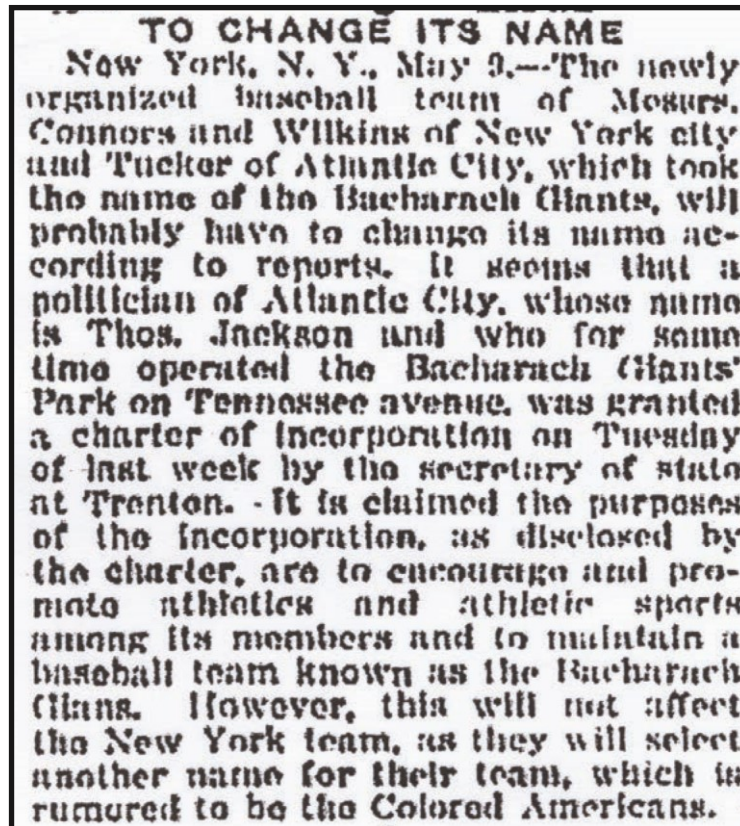


**InletPark**

Atlantic City, New Jersey

Before the 1919 season even started, Connor and Wilkins were faced with a significant legal problem related to the team name “Bacharach Giants.” After being forced out, Thomas Jackson, who had operated the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, threatened legal action because he had registered the team name and he felt he controlled the legal right to the name “Bacharach Giants.” An article that appeared in the Chicago Defender on May 5<sup>th</sup> suggested the team’s name should be changed to the “Colored Americans.” Connor and Wilkins decided to use the name “Bacharach X Giants.” As the season progressed the controversy was resolved and the “X” in the team’s name was dropped.

John Connor signed John Henry “Pop” Lloyd as the team’s manager for the 1919 baseball season. The Bacharach Giants played their home games at Inlet Park in Atlantic City and at the Dyckman Oval in Washington Heights (New York). The newly renovated Inlet Park had a new grandstand with a seating capacity for close to 5,000 fans.



Chicago Defender

05-10-19

After signing both John Henry “Pop” Lloyd and Dick “Cannonball”

Redding, John Connor set his sights on raiding Nat Strong's Brooklyn Royal Giants roster for additional players. Connor saw Brooklyn's roster as easy pickings because Nat Strong had publicly stated that black ball players weren't worth more than \$ 65 per month and all Connor had to do was pay players a little more money. Other players John Connor signed from the Brooklyn Royal Giants were Ernest Gatewood (C), Jesse "Mountain" Hubbard (P) and Johnny Pugh (OF).



John Henry "Pop" Lloyd

When the 1919 baseball season opened for play only Bill Handy (2B) and Elias "Country" Brown (OF) remained from the Bacharach Giants' 1918 starting line-up of position players. Connor and Wilkins also totally revamped the pitching staff. Roy Roberts was the only pitcher that was retained from the 1918 pitching staff.

The Bacharach Giants had a strong starting line-up that included: John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.322), Ben Taylor (.317), George Shively (.293) and Spottswood Poles (.282). As a team they posted a .244 team batting average with a .301 slugging percentage.

The real key to success during the 1919 baseball season for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants was their pitching staff. Dick "Cannonball" Redding was the ace of Atlantic City's pitching staff. His 1919 pitching statistics in games against top level teams were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Pct.	Shutouts	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1919	Atlantic City	-	169.7	12	6	.667	3	135	26	21	145	1.38

In games against all levels of competition Dick Redding put up the following numbers:

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Won	Lost	Pct.	Shutouts	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1919	Atlantic City	42	275.3	22	10	.689	5	184	61	42	209	1.37

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants pitching staff for the 1919 season also included Arthur Dilworth (3-1), James "Smokey" Edwards (01), Jesse "Mountain" Hubbard (6-1), Jim Jeffries (6-1), Dan "Shang" Johnson (10-3), Roy Roberts (13-4), Dick Whitworth (0-0), Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware (9-6), Smokey Joe Williams (1-1) and Tom Williams (1-0).



The Bacharach Giants opened their season in Atlantic City on May 30<sup>th</sup> with a three game series against Hal Chase's All Nationals whose team included several ex-Major Leaguers. Behind the pitching of Dick Redding who struck out 10 All Nationals hitters, the Bacharach Giants won the game by a score of 7-0. The two teams would meet again on June 13<sup>th</sup> and the results would be the same. Brooklyn won the second meeting by a score of 3-2 with Roy Roberts picking up the win.

Chicago Defender 05-31-19

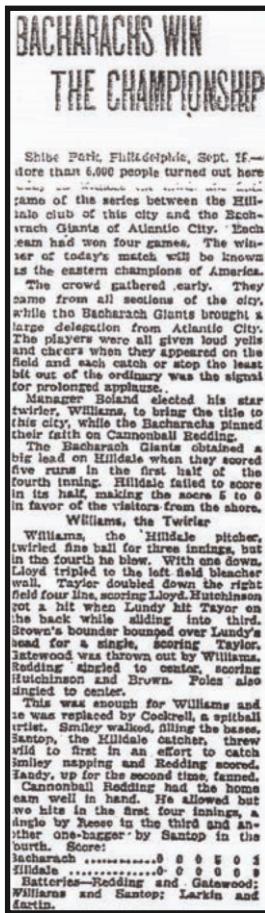
Some of the highlights of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants pitching staff in 1919 were:

- The Atlantic City pitching staff boasted a team earned run average (ERA) of 2.04 for the entire season.
- The starting pitchers pitched sixty-seven (67) complete games and registered twenty (20) shut outs.
- On July 6<sup>th</sup> Jesse “Mountain” Hubbard pitched a no-hitter against the Logan Squares of Philadelphia. The game was played in Atlantic City and the Bacharach Giants collected twenty-three (23) hits in their 12-0 victory.
- During the month of July the Bacharach Giants pitched eight (8) consecutive shut outs for a total of 72 consecutive scoreless innings.

There was no formal league in the East, so the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants played an independent schedule. They took on all comers from small town teams to high level barnstorming squads with current and former Major League players.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> of 1919 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants faced off in a doubleheader against the Treat ‘Em Rough baseball team owned by the famous best-selling author and movie producer Guy Empey. The double header was played before 16,000 fans at the Dyckman Oval Stadium in Manhattan’s Inwood neighborhood. The Treat ‘Em Rough’s roster was loaded with the best semiprofessional players from the New York City area as well as several former Major League ball players, but they were no match for the Bacharach Giants. Atlantic City won both games by the scores of 5-1 and 6-2.

During the 1919 season the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants played all the top level black teams (Brooklyn Royal Giants, Camden Black Sox, Cuban Stars, Detroit Stars, Havana Reds, Hilldale, Lincoln Giants, Pennsylvania Red Caps, Pittsburgh Stars of Buffalo, etc.) and white semiprofessional teams (Camden, Chester A.C., Guy Empey’s Treat ‘Em Roughts, International League All Stars, Logan Squares, Paterson Giants, etc.) in the East. They also played a significant number of local teams like the All Americans, Bridesburg, Disston (PA), Florence (NJ), Harry Davis’ All Stars, Klein Chocolate Company, Merchant Ship of Bristol, Millville (NJ), New York Ship with Chief Bender (Major Leaguer and future member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame) pitching for them, Overbrook of Philadelphia, Paint on Boys from Ship Town, Roxborough, Vineland (NJ), Watson & Baltimore Dry Docks, Wildwood and Wissinoming of Philadelphia.



In September of 1919 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants played Ed Bolden’s Hilldale team for the “Colored Championship of the East.” Going into the final game of the series, each team had won four games. In the final and deciding game, Cannonball Redding met Tom Williams, the ace of Hilldale’s pitching staff. The game was played at Shibe Park in Philadelphia with more than 6,000 fans in attendance. Redding responded with a two hit shutout. The Bacharach Giants won the game 5-0 and claimed the title of the “Colored Champions of the East.”

**Bacharach Giants Win Championship**

Chicago Defender 09-20-19

On September 28<sup>th</sup> of 1919 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants faced off against their arch rival the Treat ‘Em Rough baseball team. The double header was played before 16,000 fans at the Dyckman Oval Stadium in Manhattan’s Inwood neighborhood. The

Treat 'Em Rough squad was loaded with the best semiprofessional players from the New York City area as well as several former Major League ball players. Empey's squad won the first game by a score of 2-0 and Connor's Bacharach Giants came back to win the second game by a score of 5-1. The two teams moved to Inlet Park on September 29<sup>th</sup> and the Treat "Em Roughs club responded with a 9-5 victory. The two teams met again on October 5<sup>th</sup> for a doubleheader in New York City. In two hard fought contests Guy Empey's team beat Connor's squad in both games by the scores of 4-3 and 1-0.



Bacharach Giants vs Treat 'Em Roughs  
Dyckman Oval  
(1919)

The Bacharach Giants also took on John McGraw's New York Giants in a post season exhibition game in October of 1919. The game with the Major Leaguers was played at Shibe Park in Philadelphia.

### McGraw's N. Y. Giants Will Play Bacharach Giants at Phila.

Chicago Defender  
10-04-19

From mid-October to early November, the Bacharach Giants played a five game series against a Major-Minor League all-star team who billed themselves as the "International All Stars." The series was played at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. After dropping the first two games, the Bacharach Giants won the next three to end their 1919 season on a winning note.

BACH. GIANTS				TREAT 'EM ROUGHS			
AB	R	H	A	AB	R	H	A
Pelaez, lf.....	6	0	2	O'Hara, rf.....	5	0	2
Silvery, cf.....	7	1	2	O'Dets, ss.....	5	0	1
Hendy, 2b.....	8	0	0	Zimmer, 3b.....	8	0	1
Lloyd, m.....	5	1	1	Kavan'h, lb.....	5	0	0
Taylor, 1b.....	6	1	1	Daniel, lf.....	6	1	0
Wilson, 3b.....	6	0	0	Nease, cf.....	6	0	1
Brown, rf.....	5	1	2	Richards, 2b.....	5	0	3
Wilky, c.....	5	1	0	Tea, c.....	5	0	1
Redding, p.....	8	0	1	Mays, p.....	5	0	2
Totals.....	53	5	10	Perritt.....	1	0	0
				Hieb'waltz.....	0	0	0
				Totals.....	51	1	11

\*Batted for Richards in the eleventh inning.  
†Batted for Tea in the fourteenth inning.  
Second game—

BACH. GIANTS				TREAT 'EM ROUGHS			
AB	R	H	A	AB	R	H	A
Bacharach Giants.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treat 'Em Roughs.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Batteries—Wickware and Gatzwood; Benton and Hieb'waltz.

The Bacharach Giants also played the Treat 'Em Roughs during the first week of November. More than 14,000 fans crammed into the Dyckman Oval in New York City to watch Dick "Cannonball" Redding (Atlantic City) face off against Major League pitcher Carl Mays who was pitching for the Treat 'Em Roughs Squad. Dick Redding beat his Major League opponent by a score of 5-1.

By the end of the season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants were considered the best black team in the East. They ended the 1919 season with an impressive won-loss record of 75-29-1 (.721).

Chicago Defender

10-04-19

### Bacharach Giants Kick Off the 1920 Season

The year 1920 is very important in Negro League baseball history because it is the year that Andrew "Rube" Foster founded the Negro National League. Foster's "new" league was made up of teams that played predominately in the West but Atlantic City was accepted as an associate

member of the Negro National League. There was no formal league in the East during the 1920 baseball season.

When John Connor and Baron Wilkins took over the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants in 1919, they knew that one of their keys to success was going to be developing a strong relationship with the media especially in the New York City area. New York City and Harlem in particular was extremely important because it was the biggest market for black baseball in the country. Connor and Wilkin's efforts starting paying off in 1920 when the New York Age newspaper started taking a real interest in promoting and covering black baseball. This showed a legitimate effort on the part of the black press to provide support for black owners like John Connor and Baron Wilkins. On May 15, 1920 the New York Age printed an editorial stating their views on black baseball in Harlem. The newspaper emphasized the following four points.

1. The editorial called for a series of games between all the semiprofessional teams in Harlem.
2. The newspaper also called for the abolishment of "secret" meetings that were aimed at freezing out black owners.
3. The editorial also promoted bringing an end to the practice of teams raiding each other's rosters for players.
4. Lastly, the New York Age highly recommended the implementation of a legitimate "colored championship series" whereby the champions of the East would play the recognized champions of the West.

### **Controversy Strikes the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants**



**Dick Lundy**

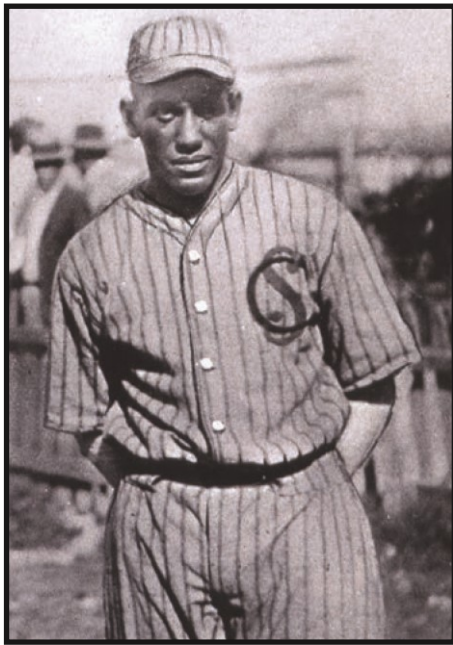
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants

The 1920 season started off in controversy for John Connor and the Bacharach Giants. The issue arose when Dick Lundy who was considered the premier shortstop in all of black baseball signed contracts with three different teams for the 1920 season and each of these teams expected him to report to their team for the season. Signing Lundy was critically important for Connor because over the off season he had lost John Henry "Pop" Lloyd as his starting shortstop from the 1919 team to the Brooklyn Royal Giants. The problem had to be resolved in court when the Hilldale Baseball and Exhibition Company filed a law suit against Dick Lundy in the Common Pleas Court. Fortunately for the Bacharach Giants, the judge hearing the case ruled that Lundy was the property of Atlantic City.

John Connor and the rest of the Atlantic City ownership group was determined to make the Bacharach Giants the best team in the East. To help strengthen their team

Connor also signed Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle before the start of the 1920 season. Oliver had played with Dick

Redding when they were both with the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Atlantic City already had Dick Lundy at shortstop and Connor knew that if he could sign Oliver Marcelle then his team



would have the best left side of an infield in all of black baseball.

Dick “Cannonball” Redding returned to Atlantic City as the manager of the team and the ace of the pitching staff.

According to Negro League researcher James Overmyer, the leading hitters for the Bacharach Giants in games against all levels of competition during the 1920 season were Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle (.316), Bill Pierce (.305), Dick Lundy (.297), Bill Handy (.277) and Elias “Country” Brown (.275). Atlantic City posted an impressive team batting average of .274 with a team slugging percentage of .333.

Defensively the team was also very good. With Marcelle (3B) and Lundy (SS) in his line-up Redding had the best left side of an infield in black baseball.

**Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle**  
Atlantic City Bacharach Giants

During the 1920 season the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants went with a four man pitching staff comprised of Dick “Cannonball” Redding, Mervyn “Red” Ryan, Harold Treadwell and Andrew “String Bean” Williams. With the exception of two innings pitched by Oliver Marcelle these four pitchers carried the pitching load for the entire season. In games against all levels of competition the Bacharach Giants pitching statistics for the 1920 season were as follows:

Pitcher	Games	Complete		Won	Lost	Pct.	Shutouts	Hits	Runs	BB	SO	ERA
		Games	Innings									
Dick Redding	44	35	341.3	27	11	.711	11	225	109	39	204	2.00
Mervyn Ryan	39	30	289.7	22	11	.667	4	201	93	45	137	1.93
Harold Treadwell	36	28	279.7	27	6	.818	6	185	105	50	167	2.57
Andrew Williams	26	18	214.7	16	5	.762	6	164	56	15	99	1.68
Total		111	1,127.3	92	33	.736	27	776	363	149	607	2.06

(Note – The statistics for games includes both games started and relief appearances.)

The highlights of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants pitching staff for the 1920 season were as follows:

1. They started 128 games and had 111 complete games pitched for a remarkable .867 percentage of complete games pitched as compared to games started.
2. The four starting pitchers compiled a team earned run average of 2.06 ERA for the entire season.
3. The four starters posted an amazing won-loss record of 93-33 (.736).
4. During the season Redding had one of the best seasons of his career and beat the legendary Smokey Joe Williams twice (5-0 on July 11<sup>th</sup> at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn and 6-0 on August 29<sup>th</sup> at Ebbets Field).

5. According to newspaper reports, Redding had a 19 game winning streak during the season. This winning streak included both “league” games and games against semi-pro opponents.
6. On August 22<sup>nd</sup> Dick “Cannonball” Redding pitched a no-hitter against the Chicago Giants. The game was played at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn (NY) and Atlantic City won the game by a score of 4-0.

The pitching staff of Redding, Ryan Treadwell and Williams turned in one of the best season performances in the history of professional baseball for both black and white teams.

### **Bacharach Giants Continue Their Feud with Hilldale**

The feud between the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale intensified during the 1920 season when the Bacharach Giants became associated with the Negro National League. Atlantic City and Hilldale also feuded over player (especially the Dick Lundy case) contracts. But in reality the real cause of the friction between the two teams was that both teams were vying to be the best team in the East.

### **Atlantic City Has a Historic Season**

John Connor sent his Atlantic City Bacharach Giants south to Jacksonville (FL) to conduct spring Training. During their spring training the Bacharach Giants played two games against the local Jacksonville squad on April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup>. Atlantic City won both games by the scores of 63 and 6-1.

One of the highlights of the 1920 season for Atlantic City occurred on May 16<sup>th</sup> when the Bacharach Giants became the first African-American baseball team to play in Ebbets Field (home field of the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National League). According to a newspaper article that appeared in the New York Age on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Bacharach Giants played the Treat ‘em’ Rough baseball team (famous white semipro team from New York City). The Bacharach Giants won both of their games against Guy Empey’s Treat ‘Em Rough squad by the scores of 8-0 and 11-4. Dick Lundy was reported by the media as the star of the double header. With the ability to play at Ebbets Field, the Bacharach Giants now had access to three ball parks to play their home games.



**Ebbets Field**

Home of the Brooklyn Dodgers

During the month of May of 1920 the Atlantic City

Bacharach Giants also played several other teams in the New York City area. This schedule included six games against Jeff Tesreau's Bears and two games against the Bronx Giants. Connor's Bacharach Giants also traveled to Philadelphia in May to pick up two wins against the Madison Stars.

**Swamp Zimmerman's Men**  
 New York, N. Y., June 11.—Before a crowd of 7,500 people at Bronx field last Sunday, the Bacharach Giants battled out a double victory over Heinie Zimmerman's Bronx Giants. Scores, 11 to 0 and 1 to 0. It was a sweet revenge for Connor and Wilkins' team, as they were defeated twice by Heinie's men at the same field two Sundays ago. Cannon Ball Dick Redding pitched the first game and allowed the white boys three hits, while Treadwell did even better in the dinner engagement by allowing only two hits. The Bacharach's just at present are showing superb form and will be hard to beat from now on. The score by innings:

	R.	H.	E.	
Bach. Giants	0	2	0	2
Bronx G'nts	0	0	0	0
Batteries—Redding and Hoyao; Tobin and Praher.				
				R.H.E.
Bach. Giants	0	0	0	0
Bronx Giants	0	0	0	0
Batteries—Treadwell and Yank				

On May 31<sup>st</sup> the Bacharach Giants opened their season at Inlet Park in Atlantic City when they took on Heinie Zimmerman's Bronx Giants in a doubleheader. Mayor Harry Bacharach who the team was named after threw out the first pitch of the game. The Bacharach Giants won both games by the scores of 15-6 and 6-2. According to newspaper reports, approximately 10,000 fans attended the double header.

The Bacharach Giants met the Bronx Giants again on June 6<sup>th</sup> in another double header. Redding beat the Bronx Giants 11-0 in the first game and Hal Treadway pitched a 7-0 victory in the second game. A crowd of 7,500 fans were in attendance for the double header at Bronx Field in New York City.

Chicago Defender  
06-12-20

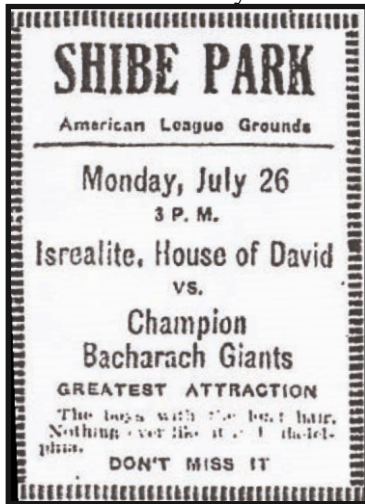
In early June of 1920 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants took a hit when John Connor and the owner of the Dyckman Oval disagreed over financial matters related to Connor's team playing at the New York City ball park. The financial matter in question was the percentage of the gate that Connor would receive when his team played at the Dyckman Oval.

Another historic event occurred for the Bacharach Giants on July 11<sup>th</sup> when they met the New York Lincoln Giants in a double header at Ebbets Field with 16,000 fans in attendance. This marked the first time two black teams had played each other in a Major League stadium in the East. Dick Redding pitched the Bacharach Giants to a 5-0 victory over Smoky Joe Williams and the Lincoln Giants. The two pitchers faced off again in August. Redding prevailed again, this time by the score of 6-0. The Lincoln Giants won the second game of the July 11<sup>th</sup> double header by a score of 7-5.

**BASEBALL! First Double Header!**  
 For The CHAMPIONSHIP of the EAST  
**LINCOLN GIANTS,** Led by Cyclone Joe Williams  
 vs.  
**BACHARACH GIANTS,** Led by Cannon Ball Dick Redding  
 Sunday, July 11 First Game at 2:15 Sharp Second Game at 4 o'clock At Ebbett's Field  
 BROOKLYN NATIONAL LEAGUE PARK

New York Age  
07-10-20

From June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> the Bacharach Giants played all but a small handful of their games in



Chicago Defender  
07-24-20

Atlantic City. During this stretch they gave their fans their monies worth. Atlantic City compiled an amazing record of 46-5-1 (.902) during these two months. One of the highlights of this winning streak occurred on July 26<sup>th</sup> when the Bacharach Giants met the House of David at Shibe Park in Philadelphia. Over 12,000 fans showed up to see Atlantic City take a 4-2 victory over their famous bearded opponents.

In late July of 1920 the Bacharach Giants left the East coast to travel west. During their barnstorming tour of the Midwest, Atlantic City played the Detroit Stars, Albion Red Sox, Chicago American Giants and Indianapolis ABCs. They returned home to Atlantic City in mid-August. The trip was a disaster for the Bacharach Giants. They managed only four (4) wins in thirteen (13) games.

### Connor Deals with Nat Strong

John Connor and Nat Strong had feuded with each other over the booking of games since the time that John owned the Brooklyn Royal Giants. In fact Connor's continuing conflicts with Strong was one of the reasons John got out of baseball in 1913. When John Connor and Baron Wilkins took over the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, they decided to take a different approach of dealing with their arch enemy. Their plan focused on establishing relationships with some of the other powerful baseball men in the New York City area. When Connor established a relationship with Charles Ebbets, owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Ebbets Field, he gained two things. First, Connor gained access to being able to play at a first class ball park (Ebbets Field) and most importantly credibility in the New York City baseball community. Connor then developed a relationship with Hal Chase, who besides owning his own team, was very influential in all matters of baseball in New York City. These two relationships enabled John Connor to gain the support of other white promoters, team owners and park owners.



**Charles Ebbets**  
Owner  
Brooklyn Dodgers

### Bacharach Giants Move Toward Prosperity

During the 1920 season, John Connor's team played six games at Ebbets field against black teams. The first three games were in July when they played the New York Lincoln Giants. In October the Chicago American Giants came to New York and the two teams played at Ebbets Field. Dick Redding won the first game against Chicago by a score of 5-3.



In late August the Chicago Giants traveled to New York City to play the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. Four games were played at Inlet Park in Atlantic City and two games were played at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. The Bacharach Giants soundly defeated their western opponents. Atlantic City won four games, lost one and one game ended in a tie.

The Indianapolis ABCs also traveled to Atlantic City to play a series of nine games against the Bacharach Giants in 1920. The first game was played on August 30<sup>th</sup> at Inlet Park and the Bacharach Giants came away with a 7-5 win. Atlantic City won the series against the Indianapolis ABC's with a 5-3-1 record in the nine (9) games.

Chicago Defender  
08-21-20

On September 10<sup>th</sup> the media reported that John Connor and Baron Wilkins would hold a “monstrous” banquet at the close of the season. According to the newspaper article they were going to invite every black baseball player in the East. The banquet was their way of capping off a very successful season and saying thank you to all the players who participated in the great game of baseball. Charles Ebbets of the Brooklyn Dodgers was the guest of honor.

In late September of 1920 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants won both ends of a doubleheader from the Baltimore Black Sox. Evidently John Connor worked out his financial differences with the owners of the Dyckman Oval because a double header with the Black Sox was played at the Dyckman Oval. With 8,000 fans in attendance, the Bacharach Giants took the first game 13-5 and the second game by a score of 20-4. The Bacharach Giants’ humiliating defeats of one of the best black baseball teams in the East put a stamp on their dominant role in black baseball.



**Dyckman Oval**  
New York City, NY

After the regular 1920 season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants continued to barnstorm and play exhibition games. One of these games was against the Babe Ruth All Stars. Ruth was coming off a 54 homerun season with the New York Yankees. Also on the roster for Ruth’s All Stars were Lefty O’Doul and Wally Schang. The game was played on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Shibe Park in Philadelphia. Dick Redding faced off against 26-game winner Carl Mays (Babe Ruth All Stars). Babe Ruth got his homerun, but Redding took home a 9-4 victory.

## Atlantic City Plays a Championship Series vs Chicago

In October of 1920 Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants traveled east to play the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants for the "Colored World's Championship." The highlight of the series for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants was a double header played on October 10<sup>th</sup>. With over 15,000 fans in attendance at Ebbets Field, the Bacharach Giants took both ends of the double header by the scores of 5-3 and 7-3. The series was tied three games each going into the seventh and deciding game. The final game turned into a magnificent pitching duel between Dave Brown (Chicago American Giants) and Merven "Red" Ryan (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants). Brown and the Chicago American Giants came out on the winning side a of a 1-0 game. The win gave Chicago the championship title.

A summary of the series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning	Losing
					Pitcher	Pitcher
1	Shibe Park	Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	11-10	-	-
2	Shibe Park	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	13-1	-	-
3	Shibe Park	Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	Atlantic City	7-0	-	-
4	Ebbets Field	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Atlantic City	5-3	Dick Redding	-
5	Ebbets Field	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Atlantic City	7-3	Andrew Williams	-
6	Ebbets Field	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	2-0	Tom Williams	Dick Redding
7	Ebbets Field	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	1-0	Dave Brown	Merven Ryan



**Chicago American Giants**  
**Colored World's Champions**  
**(1920)**

John Connor's Bacharach Giants continued to play into November when they met the Tesreau's Bears in a game at the Dyckman Oval in New York City on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The game featured Dick "Cannonball" Redding against Curt "No-Hit" Fullerton. A crowd of 3,500 fans watched the Bears take a 5 to 4 victory.

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants started their 1920 season on April 13<sup>th</sup> and ended it on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Atlantic City finished the 1920 season with an amazing record of 100-37-4 (.730) in games against all levels of competition. They were definitely one of the top two teams in the East for the 1920 season. At the end of the season, both the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale claimed the title of "Colored Champions of the East" for the 1920 season.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> John Connor attended the second annual Negro National League meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana at the YMCA. All of the top team owners, newspaper sporting editors and other dignitaries of black baseball were in attendance. Numerous business issues were discussed in preparation for the 1921 Negro National League season.

Bacharach Giants – Cuban Passport Photos  
(1920)



Oscar Charleston



Mervyn "Red" Ryan



Oliver "The Ghost" Marcell



Louis Santop

### Bacharach Giants Return to Cuba

The Bacharach Giants traveled to Cuba to play in the 1920 American Series against Cuba's top two teams (Almendares and Habana). The six game series was played at Almendares Park. Connor and Wilkins supplemented their team roster that they sent to Cuba. The Bacharach Giants team that went to Cuba in 1920 were a strong team on paper that included Charles Blackwell (Hilldale), Oscar Charleston (Indianapolis), Dick Lundy (Atlantic City), Dick "Cannonball" Redding (Atlantic City) and Louis Santop (Hilldale).

The American Series started on November 21<sup>st</sup> with the Bacharach Giants being shut out in a 3-0 loss to Almendares and ended on December 1<sup>st</sup> with another 3-0 loss to Almendares. The final standings for the 1920 American Series were as follows: Almendares (2-0-1), Habana (2-0-1) and Bacharach Giants (0-4-1). The primary reason for their dismal performance was the team's hitting. During the 1920 American Series the Bacharach Giants batters went 28 for 149 for a pitiful .148 team batting average. Dick Lundy who hit .227 was the only starter to bat over .200 for the series. The Bacharach Giants' pitching staff didn't fare much better. Dick Redding (0-2 w/ 3.96 ERA), Willis "Pud" Flournoy (0-1 w/ 8.21) and Mervyn "Red" Ryan (0-1 w/ 1.89) were the three starting pitchers for the Bacharach Giants.

### Bacharach Giants Stay in Cuba

After the American Series the Bacharach Giants stayed in Cuba to play in the 1920-21 Cuban League season. The twenty-six (26) game season started on December 2, 1920 and concluded play on February 14, 1921. Rube Foster managed the Bacharach Giants team that fielded the following starting line-up.

#### Bacharach Giants in Cuba (1920-21)

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Agustin Parpetti	.286	OF	Oscar Charleston	.410
2B	Joe Hewitt	.250	OF	Jose Campos	.273
SS	Morten Clark	.406	OF	Charles Blackwell	.294
3B	Dick Lundy	.375			
C	Louis Santop	.368	P	Dick Redding	2-6
C	Julio Rojo	.286	P	Mervyn Ryan	2-1

Other pitchers for the Bacharach Giants during the regular 1920-21 Cuban League season were Willis "Pud" Flournoy (0-3), Jose Rodriguez (0-1) and Phil Cockrell (0-0).

The Bacharach Giants had an excellent team on paper but got terrible pitching during the season.

After starting the season with a dismal record of 4-11 (.267), the Bacharach Giants dropped out of the league on January 13, 1921. They were forced to forfeit their final fifteen (15) games. The final 1920-21 Cuban League standings were as follows: Habana (23-10), Almendares (21-12) and Bacharach Giants (4-26).

It is unclear what role if any or how much involvement John Connor and Baron Wilkins had with the Bacharach Giants team that played in the 1920-21 Cuban League. There are no records that ever identify either Connor or Wilkins traveling to Cuba and most of the players weren't even on the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants 1920 roster that played in the United States. Dick Lundy, Dick "Cannonball" Redding, Julio Rojo and Mervyn "Red" Ryan were the only players that went to Cuba who actually played for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants during the 1920 regular season.

Bacharach Giants – Cuban Passport Photos  
(1920)



Dick "Cannonball" Redding



Morten "Specs" Clark



Phil Cockrell



James York

## Bacharach Giants Head into the 1921 Season

In preparation for the 1921 season, the first thing that John Connor did was resign Rick Redding as the Bacharach Giants' player-manager. Newspaper reports were that Redding had returned from Cuba in "perfect physical condition" and developed a new "fade away" pitch to increase his already dominant repertoire of pitches.

**CONTRIBUTORS TO REMODEL  
ATLANTIC CITY PARK**

**Bacharach at Ebbetts Field,  
Brooklyn, When "Trolley  
Dodgers" Travel**

New York City, Feb. 12.—John W. Connor, treasurer of the Bacharach Giants, is out to make his team the strongest in the country this season and in this effort he has added many new faces to his line-up. Mr. Connor's ambition is to better the record of last year's victories.

The spring training season will open in Jacksonville, Fla., the last part of March. Barr Field has been secured for the playing grounds. Cannon Ball Redding, who has been hobnobbing during the winter months in Havana, Cuba, has returned to this city and claims to be in perfect physical condition. He is manager of the team. Redding has perfected a new style of delivery which he claims will be as famous as the "fadeaway" ball of Christy Mathewson of the New York Giants. With this delivery Redding struck out the famous Babe Ruth at Shibe Park, Philadelphia, last fall. To prepare his club to give visiting teams a hot reception this season, Redding has fortified himself with seven first string pitchers, Connor and Baron Wilkins having told him to go the limit.

**To Play in Big Parks**

Arrangements have been completed wherein the Bacharach Giants will play at Ebbetts' field, Brooklyn, during the absence of the Brooklyn National league team and at Shibe park, Philadelphia, while the Philadelphia Americans are on the road. Their games will be played at the Bacharach park in Atlantic City, N. J., which is undergoing alterations and repairs, the management having found the seating capacity entirely too small, and will build a new pavilion and bleachers. Dyckman oval in this city and the Federal League park in Harrison, N. J., will also see the Bacharach this year.

According to Secretary Lamer the Bacharach will make their swing west early this year and all arrangements for the western clubs' visit east have been completed. Pitcher Ryan and Catcher Rojo are in Cuba playing somewhere in the interior, but will be back in plenty of time for the spring trip. A roster of the signed players will appear in a coming issue.

**Dick Redding**

Atlantic City  
Player-Manager



In addition Connor made plans for a major renovation of Inlet Park. Increasing seating capacity and building a new pavilion and new bleachers were the top priorities.

John Connor and his Bacharach Giants started the 1921 season in March by traveling to Jacksonville (FL) for spring training at Barr Field. They played their first game of the season on March 28<sup>th</sup> with a 9-3 win over the local Jacksonville club. Atlantic City then played a local team from Brunswick (GA) in a three game series. Connor's squad won all three games by the scores of 9-3, 7-2 and 13-4. Spring training in Florida lasted until April 4<sup>th</sup> when Redding took the team on the road to barnstorm north with plans of arriving in New York City on May 1<sup>st</sup>. During their spring training barnstorming tour some of the teams they played were the St. Louis Giants, Montgomery Gray Sox, WinstonSalem Pond Giants, Baltimore Black Sox and Norfolk Giants. By the time the Bacharach Giants had reached Norfolk on April 27<sup>th</sup> they had compiled a won-loss record of 17-1-1 (.944).

Atlantic City started the 1921 regular season playing their home games at Ebbetts Field (Brooklyn), Dyckman Oval (New York City), Federal League Park (Harrison, NJ) and Shibe Park (Philadelphia) because John Connor and Baron Wilkins, owners of the Bacharach Giants, were completing a major renovation project at Inlet Park in Atlantic City. The Bacharach Giants opened their regular season on May 1<sup>st</sup> against Tesreau's Bears at the Dyckman Oval in New York City.

The Bacharach Giants took a severe hit in May when Dick

Lundy was injured in a game in Detroit. Lundy missed at least 18 games against top level teams as the Bacharach Giants

barnstormed through the West. When Lundy returned to the Chicago Defender starting line-up he

became the team's top hitter for the season 02-19-21 and played flawless defense at shortstop.

The Atlantic Bacharach Giants fielded an incredibly strong hitting team for the 1921 season. As a team the Bacharach Giants posted a .287 team batting average with a .373 team slugging percentage. The starting line-up for the 1921 Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and their batting average in games against all levels of competition was as follows:

**Atlantic Bacharach Giants (1921)**

Position	Player	Batting Average	Position	Player	Batting Average
1B	Bill Pettus	.310	OF	Elias Brown	.307
2B	Bill Handy	.285	OF	Jesse Barbour	.293
SS	Dick Lundy		OF	Dennis Graham	.325
	George Shively	.309	3B	Oliver Marcelle	.322
C	Julio Rojo	.262			
			P	Dick Redding	24-13
			P	Harold Treadwell	13-4
			P	Merven Ryan	12-5



**Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1921)**

(Standing left to right – Unknown, **Dick “Cannonball” Redding**, Maurice Busby, McDonald, William “Zack” Pettus, Jess Barbour, Elias “Country” Brown and Unknown. Middle row left to right - **Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle**, Jimmy Fuller, James “Yank” Deas, John Connor (owner), Frank Harvey, Andrew “String bean” Williams and Johnny Pugh. Front row left to right – Julio Rojo, George Shively and Dennis Graham)

Besides managing the team, Dick Redding was also the team's best pitcher and took most of the starting assignments on the mound during the year. In games against teams of top level competition, Cannonball posted a won-loss record of 17-11, had 22 complete games in 25 starts, pitched 4 shut outs and posted a 2.82 ERA for the season. In games against all levels of

competition, “Cannonball” Redding went 24-13, had 30 complete games in 35 starts, pitched 5 shutouts and posted a 2.53 ERA for the 1921 season.

Connor’s starting rotation for the Bacharach Giants was rounded out by Harold Treadwell (13-4 w/ 3.25 ERA), Mervyn “Red” Ryan (12-5 w/ 3.45 ERA) and Andrew “String Bean” Williams (9-3 w/ 4.50 ERA). Some of the other pitchers who played for Atlantic City in 1921 were Henry “Long Tom” Richardson (5-4 w/ 3.12 ERA), Jesse “Nip” Winters (4-3 w/ 2.79 ERA), Benjamin “Hooks” Mitchell (4-4), Maurice “Lefty” Busby (3-1 w/ 3.35 ERA), Hosley “Scrip” Lee (1-4 w/ 8.54 ERA) and Phil Cockrell (1-1 w/ 2.77 ERA). Unlike the 1920 season when the Bacharach Giants used only four pitchers for the entire season, Atlantic City used seventeen (17) pitchers in 1921. In addition the team ERA rose from 2.06 ERA in 1920 to 3.46 ERA in 1921.

### **Connor Forms an Alliance with Rube Foster**

During the season John Connor and Andrew “Rube” Foster formed an alliance. This enabled Foster to circumvent the stranglehold that Nat Strong and James Keenan had over baseball in New York City. Each felt the association was mutually beneficial and would best serve the financial interests of both parties. How long the alliance would last was anyone’s guess but for the time being they supported each other.

One of the highlights of the 1921 season for the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants was a no-hitter Phil Cockrell pitched against Detroit on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Atlantic City (NJ). The Bacharach Giants won the game by a score of 1-0.

### **Bacharach Giants and Hilldale Play a Championship Series**

Even though there was no formal league in the East during the 1921 season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants had declared themselves as the “Colored Champions of the East.” The Hilldale Club from Philadelphia disputed this claim and challenged the Bacharach Giants to a four game “Championship Series.” Hilldale had a very good team that included Otto Briggs, Judy Johnson, Louis Santop and Chaney White. They also had an exceptional pitching staff that was made up of Phil Cockrell, Willis “Pud” Flournoy, Connie Rector and Dick Whitworth.

Game one of the series was played in Philadelphia on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Atlantic City jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning on a three run homerun by Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle. Atlantic City held on the rest of the way to post a 4-3 victory. Hilldale came back to take game two by a score of 4-1. Dick Redding, player-manager for Atlantic City, put himself on the mound to start game three of the series and defeated Hilldale by a score of 4-3. Game four of the series was a slugfest that saw Hilldale score six runs in the top of the first inning and Atlantic City come back to score five runs in the bottom of the first. Hilldale eventually won the game by a score of 8-6 to tie the series at two games apiece. For some unknown reason, no tie breaker was ever played. A summary of the series is as follows:

<b>Game</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Winning Team</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Winning Pitcher</b>	<b>Loosing Pitcher</b>
1	Philadelphia	Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Atlantic City	4-3	Dick Redding	Phil Cockrell
2	Philadelphia	Sept 24 <sup>th</sup>	Hilldale	4-1	Dick Whitworth	Jesse Winters
3	Brooklyn	Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Atlantic City	4-3	Dick Redding	Phil Cockrell
4	Brooklyn	Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Hilldale	8-6	Pud Flournoy	W. Reavis

The series between Atlantic City and Hilldale proved nothing. Each team won two games and a tie breaker was never played. Redding carried the load for the Bacharach Giants and won the two games he pitched. The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants still claimed the “Colored Championship of the East” because from their perspective, Hilldale could not beat them.



Hilldale  
(1921)

### Chicago American Giants Play the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale for “Colored World’s Championship”

Rube Foster took his Chicago American Giants team back East in late September to play a championship series against the two top teams (Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale) in the East.

The Chicago American Giants had just come off winning their second straight Negro National League title. Rube Foster built his team around pitching and team speed. Cristobal Torriente (.346) was the team’s top hitter. Chicago’s pitching staff was anchored by Tom Williams (15-7), Dave Brown (11-3), Jack Marshall (8-3), Bill Holland and Tom Johnson.

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants and Hilldale had finished the season as the top two teams in the East. Atlantic City was led by the hitting of Dick Lundy (.329) and the pitching of Dick “Cannonball” Redding (24-13). Louis Santop (.346) was the top hitter for Hilldale, while Phil Cockrell (10-5) was the ace of the pitching staff.

The rosters for the three teams playing in the “Colored World’s Championship” series were as follows:

	Chicago American Giants	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Hilldale
1B	Leroy Grant	Zack Pettus	Toussaint Allen
2B	Bingo De Moss	Bunny Downs	Dick Lundy
	Bill Handy	SS Bobby Williams	
	Judy Johnson		
3B	Dave Malarcher	Francis C. George	Louis Santop
OF	Oliver Marcelle	George Johnson	Jelly Gardner
	Jess Barbour	Country Brown	Otto Briggs
	George Shively	Jimmie Lyons	Phil Cockrell
P	Chaney White	Dick Redding	
P	Tom Williams	Dick Whitworth	Bill Holland
	Dave Brown		String
	Harold Treadwell		
	Bean Williams		
	Pud Flournoy		
P	Jack Marshall	Jesse “Nip” Winters	Connie Rector
P	Tom Johnson	Ping Gardner	Henry Gillespie

The Chicago American Giants opened their first series against the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants on September 30<sup>th</sup> in New York City. A summary of this series is as follows:

## Chicago American Giants vs Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1921)

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	New York City	Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Tie	1-1	-	-
2	Harrison (NJ)	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Atlantic City	4-0	Nip Winters	Tom Williams
3	New York City	Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chicago	3-1	Dave Brown	Dick Redding
4	New York City	Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	6-3	Dave Brown	Dick Redding

Chicago won the series two games to one for Atlantic City with one game ending in a tie.

The Chicago American Giants then took on Ed Bolden's Hilldale club. A summary of the Chicago-Hilldale series is as follows:

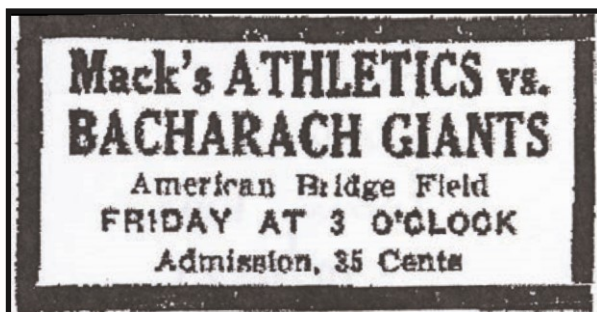
## Chicago American Giants vs Hilldale (1921)

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Loosing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	5-2	Bill Holland	Pud Flournoy
2	Philadelphia	Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Hilldale	4-3	Phil Cockrell	Dave Brown
3	Wilmington (DE)	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	5-2	Bill Holland	Dick Whitworth
4	Philadelphia	Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tie	5-5	-	-
5	Philadelphia	Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Hilldale	15-5	Phil Cockrell	Dave Brown
6	Philadelphia	Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hilldale	7-1	Dick Whitworth	Bill Holland

After losing two of the first three games, Hilldale came back to win two of the last three. Game four ended in a tie. Hilldale won the series and claimed the title of "Colored Championship of the World."

## Atlantic City Takes on the Philadelphia Athletics

In October of 1921 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants played a five game exhibition series against Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics of the American League. Game one of the series was played at American Bridge Field in Trenton, NJ with the Philadelphia Athletics picking up a 3-1 win. Game two was played in Reading (PA) on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Philadelphia Athletics came back in a hard fought contest in game two and eked out a one run 8-7 victory. The Philadelphia Athletics also dominated game three as Dick Redding took the loss for Atlantic City in a 6-3 win for Philadelphia. Game four was played in Elmer (NJ) on October 13<sup>th</sup> and resulted in a 5-1 victory for the Athletics. In fifth and final game five of the exhibition series, Hosely "Scrip" Lee who had been the most ineffective pitcher on the Bacharach's roster during the season picked up Atlantic City's only win. The Major Leaguers won the series four games to one for Atlantic City. Dick Redding went 0-2 against the Athletics. Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle led Atlantic City in hitting going 8 for 18 (.440 batting average) with 6 runs scored.



**Bacharach Giants vs Mack's Athletics**  
Trenton Evening News  
 Trenton, NJ 10-06-21

The Bacharach Giants ended their 1921 season on October 30<sup>th</sup> with a double header in New York City (NY) against Hilldale. Game one ended as a "no decision" and Hilldale won the second game by a score of 7-2.

The Atlantic City Bacharach Giants finished the 1921 season with an impressive won-loss record of 103-56-10 (.648) in games against all levels of competition. They were one of the two top teams in the East for the 1921 season.

### **Bacharach Giants Split into Two Factions**

In 1921 the Pennsylvania Railroad announced that they would be tearing down Inlet Park in Atlantic City to expand their rail yard. With no home ball park in Atlantic City, John Connor made plans to move his team to the New York Oval located on 150<sup>th</sup> Street and River Avenue in the Bronx, New York. The new location was also just across the East River from Harlem. With the move to the New York City area, Connor's team was referred to as the "Bacharach Giants of New York." They spent most of the 1922 season as essentially a touring team.

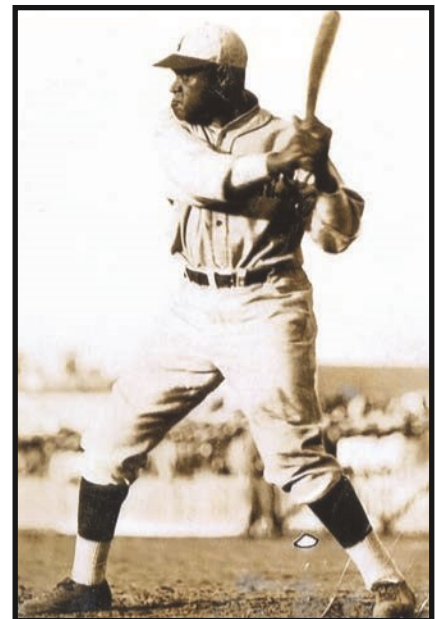
With John Connor and Baron Wilkins leaving Atlantic City this opened an opportunity for Tom Jackson and Henry Tucker to get back into professional baseball. The two former founding owners of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants decided to field their own team for the 1922 season. Jackson and Tucker's team were to be known as the "Original Bacharach Giants" and would continue to call Atlantic City their home even though they played 82 of their 87 games on the road. During the 1922 season Jackson and Tucker attempted to form an eastern league. They planned for the "new" circuit to include the Original Bacharach Giants, Baltimore Black Sox, Brooklyn Royal Giants and Lincoln Giants. Nothing ever came of their plans.

John Henry "Pop" Lloyd, Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle, Robert Hudspeth, Harold Treadwell, Elias "Country" Brown, Dick Redding, Jesse "Nip" Winters, George Shively and most of the top players from the 1921 Bacharach Giants squad went with Connor's "new" team that was called the "Bacharach Giants of New York." John Henry Lloyd became the manager of the Bacharach Giants of New York. Dick Lundy remained with and managed the Bacharach Giants team that stayed in Atlantic City.

During the 1922 season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants, Bacharach Giants of New York, Baltimore Black Sox, Hilldale and New York Lincoln Giants were considered the top teams in the East. There was no formal league in the East in 1922, so all the teams scheduled their games on an independent basis. In addition to their independent schedule in the East, John Connor's Bacharach Giants also went on a barnstorming tour of the West where they traveled to Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Canton, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Ypsilanti (MI).

The Bacharach Giants of New York were led by the hitting of John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.322), Robert Hudspeth (.317), Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle (.299), Elias "Country" Brown (.296) and George Shively (.271). According to research by Negro League historian, James Overmyer, the Bacharach Giants of New York had a team batting average of .283 and a slugging

**John Henry "Pop" Lloyd** percentage of .351 for the 1922 baseball season. Bacharach Giants of New York The pitching staff for the Bacharach Giants of New York included Dick "Cannonball" Redding (10-10 w/ 2.59 ERA), Jesse "Nip" Winters (9-9 w/ 4.39 ERA), Harold Treadwell (13-10 w/ 3.66 ERA), Roy "Big Boy" Roberts (13-7 w/ 4.57 ERA), Alonzo "Hooks" Mitchell and Andrew "String Bean" Williams (2-5 w/ 4.69).



## WINTERS PITCHES NO-HIT CONTEST AGAINST A.B.C.'S

**Fielder Duncan's Muff of Fly  
Ball Prevents Perfect Day  
for Bacharach Pitcher**

Kokomo, Ind., July 26.—After suffering defeats at the hands of Taylor's A. B. C.'s crack Indianapolis team, the Bacharach Giants of New York staged a comeback yesterday afternoon at Athletic park, driving Carr from the mound by heavy slick work and taking advantage of the marvelous hurling of Winters, who held the Taylor crew hitless, to win, 7 to 1. A muffed fly in the fifth by Duncan gave the A.'s their only run.

**Season's Biggest Crowd**

A packed grandstand and crowded side lines, the biggest crowd to witness a game here this season, was more than repaid for waiting until 5:40 o'clock to see the Colored stars mix. Coupled with Winters' masterful serving of the ball was an almost perfect fielding performance, only one error—which counted the Indianapolis team's only run—being made. A trio of sensational catches in the third and fourth innings drew comment from the thousands of fans who watched the game. Lloyd, Bacharach shortstop, nailed a high-bouncing hot grounder by Clark which looked at first like a certain safety. Jackson, second tacker, followed with a beautiful catch of a fast grounder off Washington's bat. When the A. B. C.'s took the field immediately afterward, Mackey speared Duncan's fly to deep left, getting beneath it just in time.

Brown, with a double and two singles, and Duncan, with a triple and a double, led the attack for the Giants. Three lone hits were held to two bases because of ground rules, although many asserted that the batters should have got home-runs or at least three bases.

In the eighth inning Ben Taylor, manager of the A. B. C.'s, went in as pinch hitter for Carr, but succeeded only in piling a high one into Brown's mitt.

Bacharachs		A. B. C.	
R.	H.	R.	H.
Shively, cf	0 1 2	Washington, cf	0 0 1
Martinez, 2b	0 1 2	Day, 2b	0 0 1
Shook, 1b	1 0 1	Thomas, 1b	0 0 1
Watts, 3b	0 0 1	Mackey, 3b	0 0 0
Tricker, 1b	1 2 7	Huffman, 2b	1 0 1
Duncan, lf	1 1 0	Hampton, cf	0 0 1
Jefferson, 2b	1 1 0	Clark, 1b	0 0 1
Houston, 1b	1 2 2	Carroll, 2b	0 0 0
Winters, p	0 1 0	Jefferson, p	0 0 0
		Taylor, p	0 0 0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1 14 17</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>1 10 17</b>

**Rating for Carr in the ninth.**  
 Bacharach..... 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
 A. B. C..... 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0  
**Game—Duncan, Two-base hit—Photograph, Lloyd, Brown, Houston, Three-base hit—Duncan, Sacrifices—Martinez, Left on bases—Bacharach, 10; A. B. C., 2. Earned runs—Bacharach, 6; A. B. C., 2. Error—Houston, 4; Carr, 2. Strike out—By Winters, 5; by Carr, 4; by Jefferson, 2. Hit—By Carr, 12 in 15 innings; out of defense, 2 in 1 inning. Umpire—Harley, Score—Dodd. Time—1:35.**

Jesse "Nip" Winters

Chicago Defender  
08-05-22

Jesse "Nip"

Bacharach Giants  
of  
New York



Winters

Connor's  
New York  
with a  
the Midwest.

Bacharach Giants of  
started the season off  
barnstorming tour of  
When they returned  
home they continued their rivalry with Ed Bolden's Hilldale club.

In July the Bacharach Giants of New York made their second tour of the Midwest. Some of the teams they played on their second tour of the Midwest were as follows: Chicago American Giants, Detroit Stars, Indianapolis ABCs, Kansas City Monarchs and St. Louis Stars.

One of the highlight of the 1922 season for the Bacharach Giants of New York came on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Athletic Park in Kokomo (IN) when Jesse "Nip" Winters threw a no-hitter against the Indianapolis ABC's. In the nine innings Winters pitched, he struck out eight. The Bacharach Giants won the game by a score of 7-1. The ABC's scored their lone run on an error in the fifth inning by left fielder Warren Duncan.

Pitches No-Hitter

## BASEBALL

### ATHLETIC PARK

Wednesday and Thursday

# JULY 26 - 27

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## C. I. TAYLOR'S A. B. C.'s

vs.

## BACHARACH GIANTS of New York

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BOTH GAMES CALLED AT 4 P. M.

These Teams are Members of the  
NEGRO NATIONAL LEAGUE

Bacharach Giants vs C.I. Taylor's A.B.C.'s

Kokomo Tribune  
07-24-22

### Bacharach Giants of New York Play Chicago American Giants in Championship Series

After the regular season, the Bacharach Giants of New York played the Chicago American Giants in a "Colored Championship Series." The Chicago American Giants had just won the Negro National League title for the third straight year. Cristobal Torriente (.393) and John Beckwith (.303) were the leading hitters for the American Giants. Dave Brown (16-7), Juan Padrone (14-11), Dick Whitworth (11-10) and Huck Rile (10-4) were Chicago's top pitchers.

The Bacharach Giants traveled to Chicago in mid-September to play the Chicago American Giants. The five game series was played from September 12<sup>th</sup> to September 16<sup>th</sup> in Chicago.

The starting lineups for both teams for the “Colored Championship Series” were as follows:

<b>Chicago American Giants</b>		<b>Bacharach Giants of New York</b>	
Leroy Grant	1B	Bob Hudspeth	1B
Bingo De Moss	2B	Milton Lewis	2B
Bobby Williams	SS	John Henry “Pop” Lloyd	SS
Dave Malarcher	3B	Oliver Marcelle	3B
Jim Brown	C	Julio Rojo	C
Jelly Gardner	OF	Elias “Country” Brown	OF
Cristobal Torriente	OF	George Shively	OF
Jimmie Lyons	OF	Ramiro Ramirez	OF
Dave Brown	P	Dick Redding	P
Juan Padrone	P	Jesse “Nip” Winters	P
Dick Whitworth	P	Harold Treadwell	P
Huck Rile	P	Roy “Speedboy” Roberts	P

New York got off to a fast start by taking the first two games of the series. Jesse “Nip” Winters started game one for the Bacharach Giants and won a tightly played contest by the score of 5-4. The next day, Harold Treadwell defeated Chicago by a score of 3-2 to give the Bacharach Giants a two game lead and left them only one victory away from the championship. Dave Brown, the ace of the Chicago American Giants, came back on September 14<sup>th</sup> to pitch his team to a 3-2 win and keep the American Giants in the series. Game four was classic Rube Foster (manager of the Chicago American Giants) baseball. With Chicago down by a score of 3-2 going into the seventh inning, Leroy Grant and Cristobal Torriente both walked. The next batter up was pinch hitter Johnny Reese who beat out an infield hit to load the bases. Bingo DeMoss then bunted the ball down the first base line and as the Bacharach Giants’ pitcher was fielding the ball, two runs scored for Chicago. Jimmie Lyons followed with another bunt that scored another run. In the eighth inning of the game with runners on second and third, Bingo DeMoss laid down a perfect bunt that allowed both runners to score. In two innings, Chicago had scored five runs on three bunts to give them a 7-3 victory and tie the series at two games apiece. Game five was one of the most exciting games ever played in “Colored Championship” or Negro League World Series history. Each team had won back to back games. New York had won games one and two, while Chicago won games three and four. In the fifth and deciding game, Harold Treadwell took the mound for New York, and Huck Rile was the starting pitcher for Chicago. Rile matched Treadwell by pitching six scoreless innings before giving way to Dave Brown in the seventh inning. With the game knotted at a 0-0 tie, it was now in the hands of Brown and Treadwell.

They hooked up for a pitching duel that went into the bottom of the 20<sup>th</sup> inning with neither team having scored a run. Treadwell had been perfect on the mound and Dave Brown had pitched 14 innings of shutout innings in relief. In the bottom of the 20<sup>th</sup> inning, Cristobal Torriente walked and was sacrificed to second by Bobby Williams. The next batter up was Dave Malarcher who drove in Torriente for the winning run. After a 20 inning pitching duel, the Chicago American Giants came away with a 1-0 victory and another “championship.” The Chicago American Giants had come

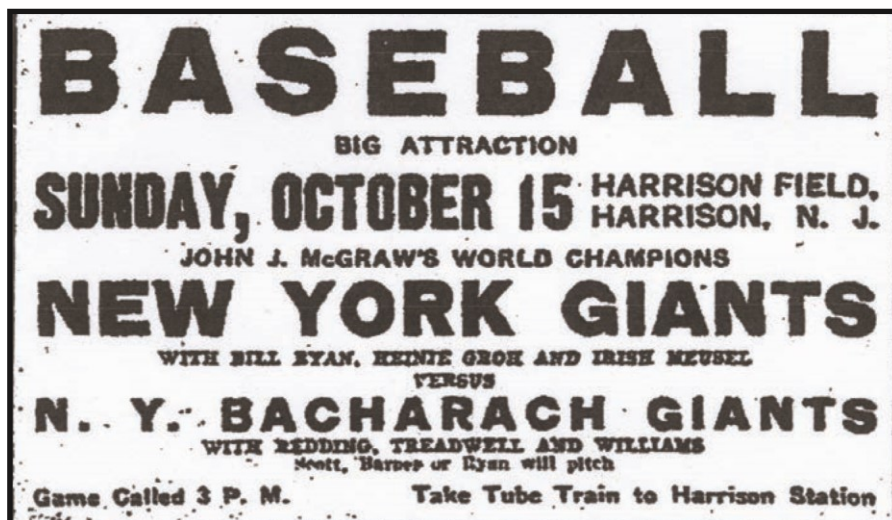
from two games down to claim the “Colored World’s Championship.” The saddest note to the contest was that Harold Treadwell had pitched 19 straight scoreless innings before giving up the lone run that cost his team the championship.

A summary of the “Championship Series” is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Chicago	Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	New York	5-4	Nip Winters	Juan Padrone
2	Chicago	Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	New York	3-2	Harold Treadwell	Aubrey Owens
3	Chicago	Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	3-2	Dave Brown	Dick Redding
4	Chicago	Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	7-3	Dick Whitworth	Roy Roberts
5	Chicago	Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chicago	1-0	Dave Brown	Harold Treadwell

Like the year before, Rube Foster’s American Giants won the “Championship Series” with excellent pitching, timely hitting and team speed.

In October of 1922 the Bacharach Giants of New York faced off in a game against John McGraw’s World Champion New York Giants (National League). The game was played on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> at Harrison Field in Harrison, New Jersey.



Chicago Defender

10-14-22

According to research by James Overmyer for his book Blackball and the Boardwalk, the Bacharach Giants of New York had a won-loss record of 58-43-4 (.574) for the 1922 season in games against all levels of competition. The Bacharach Giants of New York are credited with being the second best black team in the East for during the 1922 season.

**Connor and Wilkins Disband the Bacharach Giants of New York**

The start of the downfall of the Bacharach Giants of New York began when John Henry “Pop” Lloyd left the team to sign with Hilldale. In April of the 1923 season, John Connor and Baron Wilkins disbanded the Bacharach Giants of New York. It is unclear exactly why the two owners did not continue in black baseball. It clearly wasn’t because they didn’t have the money. Both Connor and Wilkins were very wealthy. Their continuing conflicts with Nat Strong and the large number of teams in the greater New York City area could have impacted their decision to not continue. There was also the wear and tear of continuing to have to replace players that jumped

# John Conner, Veteran Sportsman, Laid to Rest

By DAVID W. KELLUM

New York, July 16.—(Special).—Hundreds from all walks in life paid their last respects to John W. Con-

ner, nationally known sportsman, Monday afternoon when funeral services were held at the Mother Zion A. M. E. church.

Rev. W. W. Brown, pastor of the church, delivered the funeral eulogy. Special musical numbers were rendered by the choir after which the Elk and Masonic rites were held. The body was placed in a

receiving vault in Woodlawn cemetery and burial will be at a later date.

Mr. Conner, former owner of the Bacharach baseball team, organizer of the Royal Giants nine and owner of the Royal garden, a night club, 135th St. and Lenox Ave., died in the Edgcomb sanitarium Friday morning following an illness of two weeks. Hospital authorities say that he was improving nicely until Friday when he suffered a relapse. Death was due to paralysis.

He suffered a stroke while attending to business in the office of the state's attorney. He was rushed home and was attended by his family physician who later had him removed to the sanitarium.

Mr. Conner acquired nationwide fame in the sporting world 12 years ago when he organized the Royal Giants baseball team. After this team had made a splendid reputation in the East he gave it up and

organized the Bacharach Giants, which team made history, playing the best clubs in the East and West. The most memorable game was the new famous 20-inning affair with the American Giants in which the New York club lost, 1 to 9. Among the famous ball players once owned by Conners were Lloyd, Hudspeth, Redding, Williams, Duncan, Marcalle and others.

Mr. Conner has been a resident of New York state for more than 25 years and was one of the first of our group to own and operate a night club in Harlem. For about 10 years he owned the Old Porters club in Myrtle Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. The remaining years have been spent at the Royal garden cafe, 69 W. 135th St. near Lenox Ave.

He was born in Portsmouth, Va., 48 years ago and after attending school for a short time, ran off and joined the U. S. navy. He saw service in the Spanish-American war.

Mr. Conner was well known in political circles which was evidenced by the large number of high officials in attendance at the funeral. He was a close friend and once a partner of the late Baron Wilkins. He was a member of Brooklyn lodge of Elks, Kapaganda lodge of Masons, a Spanish war vet and an Odd Fellow. He was loved by all for his quite unassuming way, his freeheartedness and democratic spirit.

Active pall bearers were those who knew him best, Richard Redding, William Ambrose, Charles Duke, Thomas Mark and Kleber Willis.

Surviving Mr. Conner are his sisters, Mrs. Ellen Flynn and Mrs. Elizabeth Hearn; a brother, Miles Conner; nieces, Mrs. Leola Walker, Mrs. Gladys Flynn and Mrs. Ellen Vaughn, and two nephews, Johnnie Conner and Jerry Flynn.



John Conner

Chicago Defender

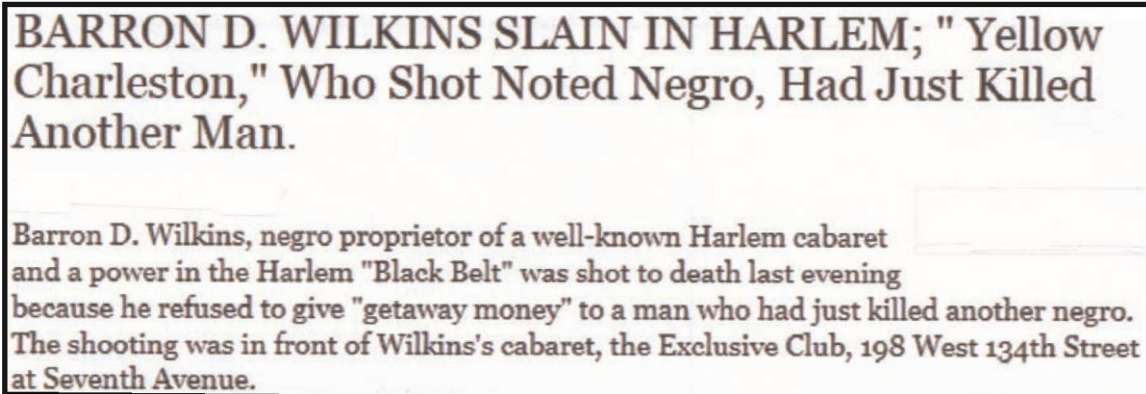
07-17-26

the team. Connor continued maintaining an interest in black baseball but it appears Wilkins may have just lost interest and concentrated his efforts in other business ventures.

After the Bacharach Giants of New York were disbanded the players all went to other teams. Only Harold Treadwell and Roy Roberts signed with the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. Elias "Country" Brown (Washington Potomacs), Robert "High Pockets" Hudspeth (New York Lincoln Giants), Clarence "Fats" Jenkins (Harrisburg Giants), John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (Hilldale), Oliver "The Ghost" Marcelle (New York Lincoln Giants), Dick "Cannonball" Redding (Brooklyn Royal Giants), Julio Rojo (Baltimore Black Sox) and Andrew "String Bean" Williams (Brooklyn Royal Giants) all strengthened the rosters of other top black teams in the East. George Shively headed west and played for the Indianapolis ABCs of the Negro National League. Most of the remainder of the team signed with the Milwaukee Bears.

### **Connor and Wilkins Fade from the Baseball Scene**

From 1923 through 1926 when Connor passed away, he was out of professional baseball. Baron Wilkins also never returned to baseball. Unfortunately, Baron met with an untimely death when he was murdered in front of one of his New York night clubs, the Exclusive Club, which was located at 198 West 134<sup>th</sup> Street and Seventh Avenue on May 24, 1924. Wilkins was reportedly killed over a disagreement related to Wilkins' sale of bootleg whiskey.



**Baron Wilkins Killed**  
Newspaper Coverage  
May, 1924

### **John W. Connor - A Life Cut Short**

In late June of 1926 John Connor suffered what was reported as a stroke. He was hospitalized at the Edgecombe Sanitarium in Harlem where he passed away on July 9, 1926. Connor was only forty-eight (48) years old.

During his funeral service, Reverend James W. Brown offered the following words about Connor.

"I have talked to a goodly number of citizens and I have yet to find one to make a discreditable remark about him."

Connor's friend and legendary ball player, Dick Redding, served as one of his pallbearers.

### **John Connor's Teams vs the Major Leaguers**

During his career as the owner-operator of the Brooklyn Royal Giants, Atlantic City Bacharach

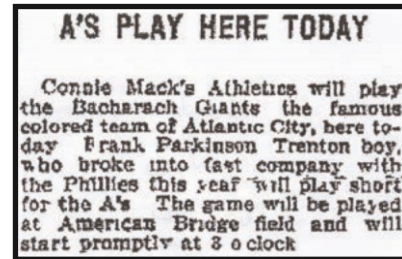
Giants and Bacharach Giants of New York, John W. Connor took on all comers and that included Major League clubs. In games against Major League teams and Major-Minor League all-star squads, Connor's teams more than held their own. Current research credits Connor owned teams with a record of 12-9 (.571) against Major League competition.

Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics were a frequent opponent of John Connor owned teams.



Athletics  
(1906)

Philadelphia  
American League



Atlantic City Bacharach Giants vs

Philadelphia Athletics

Trenton Evening Times  
Trenton, New Jersey  
10-07-21



Philadelphia Athletics

American League  
(1921)

### Won-Loss Records for John Connor's Teams

To date no where near all the box scores, games and won-loss records for the Brooklyn Royal Giants and Bacharach Giants of New York have been uncovered.

#### Brooklyn Royal Giants

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Place
1904	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	1	5	0	.167	-
1905	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	0	12	1	.000	-

1906	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	15	13	1	.534	-
1906	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Exhibition	2	0	0	1.000	-
1907	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	11	14	1	.442	-
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	21	12	1	.632	-
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	NACBC	19	10	1	.655	1 <sup>st</sup>
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	American Series	8	8	0	.500	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Exhibition (Cuba)	1	0	0	1.000	-
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	NACBC	9	3	0	.750	1 <sup>st</sup>
1910	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	9	4	0	.692	-
1911	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Spring Training Tour	43	3	0	.935	-
1911	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	11	10	1	.523	-
1912	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	9	15	0	.375	-
1913	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	13	11	0	.542	-
	Total		172	120	6	.589	-

- Notes - 1. Records for the Brooklyn Royal Giants are no where close to being complete.
- 2. NACBC stands for National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States in 1908.
- 3. The American Series was played in Cuba. Almendares and Havana competed against Brooklyn.

#### Atlantic City Bacharach Giants

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Place
1919	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Independent	75	29	1	.721	-
1920	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Independent	100	37	4	.726	-
1920	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Exhibition	1	0	0	1.000	-
1920	Bacharach Giants	American Series	0	4	2	.000	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1920-21	Bacharach Giants	Cuban League	4	26	0	.133	3 <sup>rd</sup>
1921	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Independent	103	56	10	.648	-
1921	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Exhibition	140	283	156	.17645	-

#### Bacharach Giants of New York

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.	Place
1922	Bacharach Giants of New York	Independent	58	43	4	.574	-

#### Selected Career Highlights

- John W. Connor owned and operated the Royal Cafe and Palm Garden which was a highly successful restaurant and entertainment destination in Brooklyn. He was one of the most successful African American businessmen in the New York City area.
- According to Sol White, John Connor was the second African American to own a prominent black professional baseball team.
- Connor formed the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1904. He owned and operated the Royal Giants from 1904 through the mid part of the 1913 season. Nat Strong took over the team from him.
- In 1905 the Brooklyn Royal Giants played a “championship series” against the Philadelphia Giants for the title of “Colored Champions of the East.” Brooklyn lost all three games.

- Even though the Brooklyn Royal Giants weren't considered one of the top teams in the East for the 1905 season, they played the Chicago American Giants for the "World's Colored Championship." Chicago beat Brooklyn three straight games.
- In May of 1906 the Brooklyn Royal Giants played in a three team double header against the Chicago Union Giants and Leland for the "Colored Championship." The Royal Giants defeated both of their opponents to claim the title.
- In the post season of 1906 the Brooklyn Royal Giants played two games against the Philadelphia Athletics who had just finished in second place in the final American League standings. The Brooklyn Royal Giants won both of their games against their Major League opponent.
- In 1907 the Brooklyn Royal Giants competed in a four team "championship" series along with the Philadelphia Giants, Cuban Giants and Cuban Stars. Brooklyn finished in third place.
- During the winter of 1908 the Brooklyn Royal Giants defeated the Cincinnati Reds of the National League by a score of 9 to 1. The game was played in Cuba.
- The Brooklyn Royal Giants were considered the "Colored Champions of the East" in 1908, 1909 and 1910.
- The Brooklyn Royal Giants won the "league" championship of National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba (NACBC) in 1908 and 1909.
- The Brooklyn Royal Giants defeated the Cuban Stars to become the "Colored Champions of the East" for the 1909 season.
- The Brooklyn Royals Giants also claimed to be the "Colored World's Champions" during the 1909 season.
- According to newspaper reports, during their 1911 spring training barnstorming tour of the South and Midwest, the Brooklyn Royal Giants compiled an amazing won-loss record of 43-3 (.935).
- John Connor reentered professional baseball in 1919 when he became a part owner of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants along with Thomas Jackson, Henry Tucker and Baron Wilkins.
- In 1919 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants defeated Hilldale to become the "Colored Champions of the East."
- From 1919 through the 1921 season the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants posted impressive won-loss records of 75-29-1 (1919), 100-37-4 (1920) and 103-56-10 (1921).
- On May 16, 1920 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants became the first black baseball club to play at Ebbets Field.
- After the 1920 regular season the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants played the Babe Ruth All Stars and Dick "Cannonball" Redding beat the Major Leaguers by a score of 9-4.
- During their 1921 spring training barnstorming tour the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants posted a record of 17-1-1 (.944).
- In 1921 the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants played Hilldale for the "Colored Championship of the East. The series ended in a tie. Each team won two games.

- After the conclusion of the regular 1921 season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants competed in a three team “championship series” along with the Chicago American Giants and Hilldale. Atlantic City was knocked out in the first round.
- In 1922 John Connor and Baron Wilkins split from Tom Jackson and Henry Tucker and formed the Bacharach Giants of New York.
- In his last season in professional baseball John Connor’s Bacharach Giants of New York posted a record of 58-43-4 (.574)
- Connor disbanded the Bacharach Giants of New York before the start of the 1923 baseball season. He never returned to professional baseball after the 1922 season.
- During his professional baseball career as a team owner, Connor owned teams compiled an impressive won-loss record of 509-293-20 (.635). These numbers will change as more research is conducted.
- In games against Major League teams and Major-Minor League all-star squads, John Connor’s teams more than held their own. Current research credits Connor owned teams with a record of 12-9 (.571) against Major League competition.
- During his career in professional baseball, John Connor owned and operated nine (9) “championship teams.”

Year	Team	Championship/Title
1906	Brooklyn Royal Giant	Colored Championship
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba League Title
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba League Title
1910	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored Champions of the East 1919
	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1920	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1921	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Colored Champions of the East (tie)

- In a newspaper article written in 1927 by Sol White, the future National Baseball Hall of Fame player and first real Negro League historian, named John Connor as one of the twelve (12) greatest men in black baseball management.
- John W. Connor was a true early pioneer of black baseball in America.

### **Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1921)**

After being out of baseball for over five (5) years, John W. Connor returned to the game in 1919. Connor teamed with fellow New York City night club owner Baron Wilkins to take over the majority ownership position of the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants. Connor and Wilkins had the baseball experience, contacts within the baseball community especially New York City and most importantly the money to make Atlantic City the best baseball club in the East. The Bacharach Giants were considered the “Colored Champions of the East” from 1919-1921.

During the three years that Connor and Wilkins owned and operated the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants the team posted the following impressive won-loss records: 75-29-1 (1919), 100-37-4 (1920) and 103-56-10 (1921).



**Atlantic City Bacharach Giants (1921)**

(Standing left to right – Unknown, **Dick “Cannonball” Redding**, Maurice Busby, Gifford Mc Donald, William Pettus, Jess Barbour, Elias “Country” Brown and Unknown. Middle row left to right – **Oliver “The Ghost” Marcelle**, Jimmy Fuller, James “Yank” Deas, **John W. Connor**, George Harvey, Andrew “String Bean” Williams and Johnny Pugh. Seated left to right – Julio Rojo, **George Shively** and Dennis Graham.)