

Early Pioneers of the Negro Leagues:

William S. Peters



by

Center for Negro League Baseball Research

Dr. Layton Revel

Chicago Union Giants

William S. Peters began his professional baseball career in 1887 with the Unions as a player. In 1888 he helped form the Chicago Unions who eventually became the Chicago Union Giants. Peters remained active in baseball until 1917 when he sold his team to Robert Gilkerson.



Chicago Union Giants
(1911)

William Stitt Peters was born in May of 1867 in Kentucky. As an adult he became a very successful businessman in Chicago (IL). It was also on the sandlots and playgrounds of Chicago that Peters developed his baseball skills.

Peters is recognized as one of the early pioneers of black baseball in the Midwest. In his book Sol White's History of Colored Baseball, former Hall Of Fame baseball player, author and Negro League baseball historian Sol White made the following assessment of William Peters and his business partner Frank Leland:

“We like the efforts of Will Peters (William S. Peters) and Frank Leland in trying to advance the game. Their long continuous participation in the sport surely gives them a high rating in the ranks of the pioneers of baseball.”

Peters Joins the Unions

W.S. Peters got his first exposure to professional baseball in 1887 when he was signed by the Unions who were an independent team based out of Chicago. The Unions were managed by Abe Jones who was also the team's starting catcher. Immediately upon his signing Peters became the team's starting first baseman. Also playing for the 1887 Unions was Frank Leland who would go on to be very influential in the early years of black baseball in America.

Grant Campbell (OF/2B), Joe Campbell (P), Darby Cottman (3B), Orange Fox (RF), Albert Hackley (OF) and Frank Scott (SS) rounded out the starting line-up for the 1887 Unions.

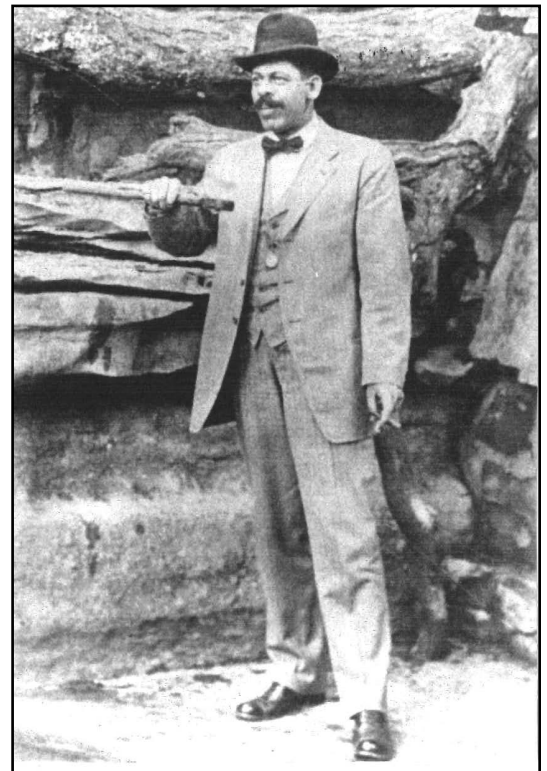
W.S. Peters and Frank Leland Form the Chicago Unions

Before the start of the 1888 baseball season, William S. Peters joined Chicago businessmen Henry Elby, Albert Donegan and Frank Leland to organize the Chicago Unions. They started as an amateur black baseball team who were based in Chicago but quickly became a dominant force in black baseball in the Midwest. The majority of the Chicago Union games were played on Sundays against other amateur teams and local town teams or “prairie” teams as they were often called.

With their ability to attract some of the best black baseball players in the Midwest, the Chicago Unions quickly became the premier black baseball team in the Midwest. According to Negro League historian, Sol White the Chicago Unions went undefeated in their first season of play.

The 1888 Chicago Unions were managed by former Unions' manager and catcher, Abe Jones. Frank Leland was the team's starting right fielder and W.S. Peters played first base. Other players on the 1888 Chicago Unions roster were Grant Campbell (LF), Joe Campbell (P), William Freeman (3B), Albert Hackley (CF), William Lee (SS) and Frank Scott (2B).

During the week the Chicago Unions barnstormed through the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The team would return to Chicago before the weekend for their “big money” games that were usually played on Sundays. It was not uncommon for the Chicago Unions to play two or three games on Sunday. The top “white” semiprofessional teams in and around the Chicago area were frequent opponents for the Chicago Unions. Often these games were played on a winner take all basis and significant side bets were not uncommon.



Frank Leland

Atlanta, New Orleans, Norfolk, Savannah and St. Louis also fielded strong teams in the Midwest and South during the 1888 season.

Prior to the start of the 1889 season, the Chicago Unions changed managers. R.R. Jackson replaced Abe Jones as the team's manager. This move enabled Jones to concentrate his efforts on playing during the 1889 season. The Chicago Unions fielded a strong line-up in 1889 that featured the play of Abe Jones (C), Frank Leland (CF) and W.S. Peters (1B). Joe Campbell and William "Big Bill" Smith handled the majority of the pitching duties for the team during the 1889 season.

From 1890 to 1900 the Chicago Unions were one of the top teams in the Midwest. According to research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark, William Peters served as the team's manager from 1890-1899. In the late 1890's the Cuban X-Giants were a major rival of the Chicago Unions.

Some of the top players for the Chicago Unions during the 1890's were Harry Buckner (P), Pete Burns (C), Robert "Bob" Footes (C), Billy Holland (P), Will Horn (P), Harry Hyde (3B), Abe Jones (C), Bert Jones (P), Willis Jones (OF), Bill Monroe (SS), Harry "Mike" Moore (OF), William S. Peters (1B), William "Big Bill" Smith (P/OF) and David Wyatt (SS). Wyatt later became a famous sports writer for the Chicago Whip, the Indianapolis Freeman and the Chicago Defender.



Chicago Unions
Chicago Inter-Ocean
09-02-97

(Top row left to right – William Joyner, Scales, Frank Butler, **Frank Leland**, Bob Jackson, Richard Shaw and Lou Reynolds. Middle row left to right – George Hopkins, Mike Moore, **William S. Peters**, Robert Footes and **Harry Buckner**. Bottom row left to right – T. Moore, Harry Hyde, William "Big Bill" Smith and **Willis Jones**)

Starting in 1891 the Chicago Unions played their home games at a small park located at 67th Street and Langley Avenue.

Prior to the start of the 1894 season, Peters and Leland secured new playing grounds for their team at a field that was located at 37th Street and Butler Street. The new site was more centrally

located and this enabled the Chicago Unions to attract a larger fan base. William S. Peters fielded a strong team in 1894. His starting line-up for the season included: W.S. Peters (1B), Frank Scott (2B), William Joyner (SS), William "Big Bill" Smith (3B), Pete Burns (C), Abe Jones (C), Gus Brooks (OF), Albert Hackley (OF) and Frank Butler (OF). Bill Holland and George Hopkins were the team's two primary pitchers during the season. The Chicago Unions were considered the best black team in the Chicago area for the 1894 season.

Going into the 1895 season William Peters was immediately faced with having to replace over half of his starting line-up from the 1894 team. Four players left the Unions to play for the newly formed Page Fence Giants who were based out of Adrian (MI). These players were Gus Brooks (OF), Peter Burns (C), Bill Holland (OF/P) and George Hopkins (2B/OF). The Page Fence Giants were formed through the efforts of John "Bud" Fowler, Grant "Homerun" Johnson and Sol White. The Page Fence Giants had a tremendous inaugural season and posted a won-loss record of 118-36-3 (.766). This is particularly impressive as they started their 1895 campaign with a 5-13 (.278) record before the team caught fire.

In addition to losing four starters to the Page Fence Giants, Peters also had to replace himself at first base because the 1894 season was his last as a full time player. Ed Woods who was one of the team's starting pitchers played first base when he wasn't pitching. The standouts on William S. Peters 1895 team were Robert "Bob" Footes (C), Harry "Mike" Moore (OF) and Willis Jones (OF). William "Big Bill" Smith, Frank Butler and Ed Woods handled most of the pitching assignments in 1895.



Willis Jones
Chicago Unions

William S. Peters started the Chicago Unions 1896 season with a roster that included Robert "Bob" Footes (C), Albert Hackley (SS), Harry Hyde (3B), Willis Jones (OF) and Harry "Mike" Moore (1B). Harry Buckner and Ed Woods provided the Unions with two strong starting pitchers. At the end of the season the Chicago Unions were considered the second best team in the West. The Cuban X-Giants with Andrew "Ajax" Jackson as their manager were generally regarded as the best team in the West for the 1896 season.

Peters Fields a Championship Team

When the 1897 season started William S. Peters was very optimistic about the upcoming season because he fielded a strong hitting line-up with a very good pitching staff. The Chicago Unions played their home games at Union Park in Chicago.

In 1897 the Chicago Unions fielded a championship team that included the following starting line-up:

Chicago Unions (1897)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Louis Reynolds	OF	Bill Joyner
2B	Harry "Mike" Moore/George Hopkins	OF	Willis Jones
SS	Billy Holland	OF	Big Bill Smith
3B	Harry Hyde		
C	Robert "Bob" Footes/Robert Jackson	P	Harry Buckner

Bill Holland, Robert Shaw and Ed Woods also pitched for the Chicago Unions in 1897.

Currently eight (8) box scores have been found for the 1897 Chicago Unions. The team went 6-2 (.750) and compiled a team batting average of .384 in these eight games. According to Negro League historian Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team, the 1897 Chicago Unions were the "Colored Champions of the West."

Prior to the start of the 1898 season William Peters signed Bert Jones (P/OF) and Dave Wyatt (SS) to bolster his roster and help his team defend their title of "Colored Champions of the West." When the 1898 season ended the Chicago Unions were the second best team in the West right behind the Cuban X-Giants.



Cuban X-Giants
Colored Champions of West
1898

W.S. Peters was the general manager and Frank Leland was the traveling manager of the 1899 Chicago Unions. Under the management and leadership of Leland and Peters, the Chicago Unions were a financially stable team who attracted and retained the top black players in the Midwest.

In 1899 the Chicago Unions fielded a very strong starting line-up that included Mike Moore (1B), Bill Monroe (SS), Harry Hyde (3B), Robert "Bob" Footes (C), Robert Jackson (C) and Willis Jones (OF). The pitching staff for the Chicago Unions included Bill Holland (OF/P), Bert Jones (P) and Will Horn (P).

During the 1899 season the Chicago Unions played the Columbia Giants whose roster was comprised mainly of former Page Fence Giants players for the "Colored Championship of Chicago." Grant "Homerun" Johnson (SS), Charlie Grant (2B), Sherman Barton (OF), Bill Binga (3B), John W. "Pat" Patterson (OF), Pete Burns (C) and Harry Buckner (P) were the top players for the Columbia Giants. Behind the pitching of George Wilson, the Columbia Giants won all

five (5) games of the series to claim the title. The Chicago Unions also were defeated by the Cuban X-Giants for the “Colored World’s Championship.” The Cuban X-Giants won nine (9) of the fourteen (14) games played during the series. Sol White, member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and author of the first book on the history of black baseball, considered this the first real “championship” series between a team from the East meeting a team from the West.

After the regular season the Chicago Unions played the Indianapolis Hoosiers who had just won the Western League championship. The Unions scored a run in the 9th inning to come away with a 5-5 tie.

Chicago Unions Become Colored World’s Champions

The best Chicago Unions team that W.S. Peters (General Manager) and Frank Leland (Traveling Manager) fielded was their 1900 squad. To make a run at the championship, Peters and Leland recruited the following players to field a very strong starting line-up:

Chicago Unions (1900)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Bert Wakefield	OF	Willis Jones
2B	William “Bill” Monroe	OF	Harry “Mike” Moore
SS	Grant “Homerun” Johnson	OF	William “Bill” Joyner
3B	Harry Hyde and Dangerfield Talbert		
C	Robert “Bob” Footes	P	William “Bill” Horn Bert Jones

Thomas Means and George Miller also pitched for the Chicago Unions in 1900. Grant “Homerun” Johnson who was the starting shortstop and team captain was the key signing for Peters and Leland.



Grant “Homerun” Johnson
Chicago Unions
1900

The Chicago Unions played their home games at Union Park in Chicago in 1900.

During the 1900 season the Cuban X-Giants traveled to Chicago to challenge the Chicago Unions for the title of “Colored World’s Champions.” The Cuban X-Giants had consistently dominated the Chicago Unions over the years, but the 1900 championship series provided a different outcome for the Peters-Leland team. The Chicago Unions prevailed in beating their perennial foe to claim the series championship.

Chicago Unions Built a Winning Tradition

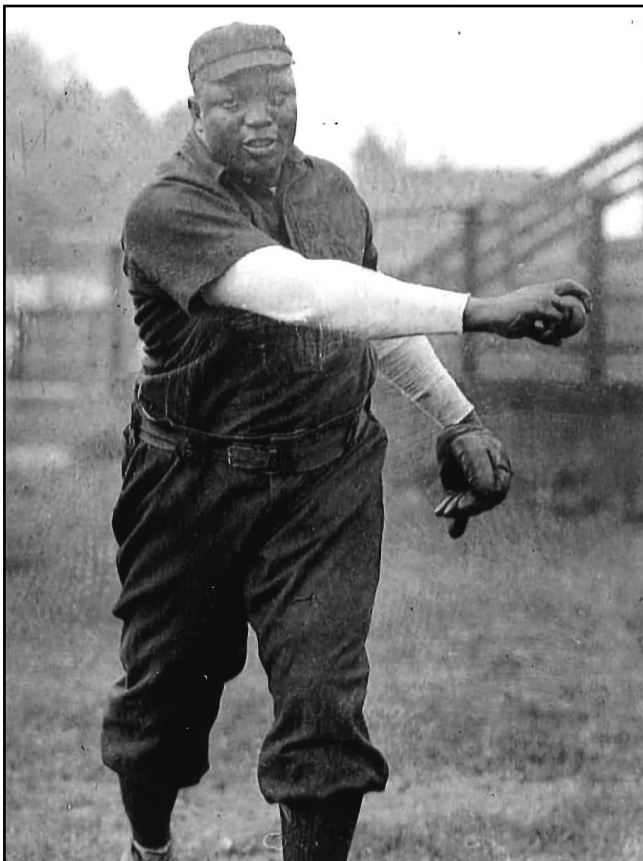
From 1888 through the 1900 season, the Chicago Unions built a winning tradition in the Midwest. They were professionals who practiced and trained together as a team. The Chicago Unions easily out classed their opposition on a regular basis and were consistently considered the best black team in the Chicago area. In short they dominated their opponents and rarely lost. According to black baseball historian, Sol White, the Chicago Unions had a career won-loss record of 613-118-2 (.814).

Peters and Leland Part Company

Prior to the start of the 1901 baseball season, William S. Peters and Frank Leland parted company. In the 1890's Frank Leland and W.S. Peters were the top two figures in black baseball in the Chicago area. The two primary reasons for their parting of ways in 1901 were as follows:

1. The Chicago Unions lost their lease on their home field located at 37th and Butler streets and they were then forced to become a fulltime traveling team. This occurred when Charles Comiskey moved his St. Paul franchise to Chicago. In addition Comiskey purchased South Side Park and made plans to expand it. This effectively evicted both the Chicago Unions and Columbia Giants both of whom made the park their home field.
2. In addition according to Frank Leland, William Peters had begun to alienate white semi-pro club managers with questionable business decisions. An example of this was when Peters scheduled a three game series with Marquette and the Cuban X-Giants on the same days. Peters ended up canceling the series with Marquette and they were left with no opponent to play.

Frank Leland took the top players from the Chicago Unions and combined them with the best players from the Columbia Giants and formed a "new" team that he called the "Chicago Union Giants." After his split with Frank Leland, W.S. Peters continued to be very active in black baseball in Chicago. Over the years Leland and Peters feuded bitterly, especially over the use of the name "Union Giants." From 1901 to 1905 William S. Peters' team was most often referred to as "Peters Union Giants."



Andrew "Rube" Foster

William Peters Signs Rube Foster ?

Prior to the start of the 1902 season the Chicago Tribune published a story that William Peters was putting together a very strong roster for the upcoming season. According to the newspaper article Peters had signed four "new" key players to his starting line-up. They were Andrew "Rube" Foster (P), Andrew Campbell (C), Clarence "Dude" Lytle (P/OF) and Dave Wyatt (OF).

Rube Foster was a rising star who had spent the 1901 season with the Fort Worth Colts. In 1901 he was credited with pitching two no-hitters. Reportedly, Peters never sent Foster the travel money that he required to join the team and Foster never reported. What has been verified through newspaper box scores is that by June of 1902, Rube Foster, Clarence Lytle and Dave Campbell were all playing for Frank Leland's Chicago Union Giants. Losing several top players to Frank Leland only intensified the feud between Peters and Leland.

Peters' Team Become the Chicago Union Giants

In 1905 when Frank Leland's team changed the name of his team to the "Chicago Leland Giants," William Peters started referring to his team as the "Chicago Union Giants." The top offensive players Peters had on his team in 1905 were Harry Hyde (3B), George "Chappie" Johnson (C), "Topeka" Jack Johnson (1B), Willis Jones (OF) and Clarence "Dude" Lytle (OF/P). The pitching staff for the 1905 Chicago Union Giants included Clarence "Dude" Lytle, Joe "Cannon Ball" Miller and Walter Taylor. "Topeka" Jack Johnson was the team's captain and often handled the team's managerial duties when the Union Giants were on the road. According to Negro League researcher, Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team, William S. Peters' Chicago Union Giants were the top team in the West for the 1905 season. Newspaper reports credit the 1905 Chicago Union Giants with a won-loss record of 112-10 (.918).



Chicago Union Giants
(1905)

(Standing left to right – Alex Irwin, Willis Jones, Fred Roberts, Haywood Rose Tom Washington, Harry Hyde, Clarence "Dude" Lytle, George Hopkins, "Topeka" Jack Johnson and George Taylor)

SPARKS FROM THE DIAMOND.

The Chicago Union Giants, who are running a close second to the Lelands, have secured the Artesian Park, one of the best located parks in the city. They inaugurated the opening of their new home by shutting out the Oak Leas 1 to 0, quite a stunt, as the Oak Leas have the honor of being the first team to beat the Leland Giants a Sunday game this season, and are the only ones they have not won a series from.

To help his team defend their "Colored Champions of the West" title, William S. Peters brought in the following new players: Sherman Barton (CF), Frank "Bunch" Davis (SS), Johnny Davis (P), Mack Ramsey (OF), John Reeves (OF), Haywood Rose (1B), Albert Toney (3B) and William Washington (C) for the 1906 baseball season. Newcomer Johnny Davis and Clarence "Dude" Lytle handled the majority of the pitching duties for the Union Giants. Peters took quite a gamble by signing almost an entire new starting line-up but it paid off when at the end of the season the Chicago Union Giants repeated as the "Colored Champions of the West."

Freeman
09-21-07

Chicago Union Giants (1908)

UNION GIANTS TAKE ALL.					
A. B. C.'s Lose Saturday and Both Sunday Games.					
The Union Giants of Chicago came to Indianapolis, met the famous A. B. C.'s, and left, victorious in all games. The score for Saturday was as follows:					
A. B. C.'s.					
	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Reeves, r. f.	0	0	2	0	0
Johnson, r. f.	0	0	0	0	0
Herron, c. f.	0	0	3	1	0
Shawler, l. f.	0	0	0	0	0
Merida, 2b.	0	2	3	2	0
Board, 1b.	0	1	14	0	0
Allen, 2b.	0	1	1	7	0
Gatewood, s. s.	0	0	1	0	1
Bishop, c.	1	0	5	0	0
Higbee, p.	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	1	5	27	10	1
GIANTS.					
	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Pryor, 2b.	1	0	0	1	0
Ramsay, l. f.	2	1	2	0	0
Green, c. f.	2	1	2	0	0
Robinson, 1b.	2	2	9	0	0
Primm, c.	1	2	7	1	0
Newbern, r. f.	1	2	1	0	0
Hutchinson, s. s.	1	2	4	2	1
Young, 2b.	0	1	1	5	0
Talbott, p.	0	0	1	1	0
Totals	11	11	27	10	1
A. B. C.'s.....	0	0	0	0	1
U. G.'s.....	2	0	3	2	0
Innings pitched—By Higbee, 9; by Talbott, 9. Base hits made—Off Higbee, 11; off Talbott, 5. Bases on balls—Off Higbee, 3; off Talbott, 1. Struck out—By Higbee, 5; by Talbott, 3. Wild pitch—Higbee. Hit by pitcher—Bishop. Two-base hits—Merida, Board, Higbee, Robinson, Primm (2). Three-base hit—Hutchinson. Home runs—Green, Robinson. Stolen bases—Reeves, Bishop, Ramsay (2), Green, Robinson. Passed balls—Bishop, 4. Umpire—Adams. Time—1:30.					
On Sunday the home team hoped to reverse the count. The first game was called at 1:30. The Giants won, 7 to 3, and took the second 8 to 4. Herron got a three-bagger in the first game and Pryor got one in the second game. A record-breaking crowd saw the games. Score:					
A. B. C.'s.					
	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Allen, 3b.	0	1	0	2	0
Herron, c. f.	2	2	1	0	0
Shawler, l. f.	0	0	4	0	0
Merida, 2b.	0	1	1	6	0
Gatewood, s. s.	0	0	0	0	1
Board, 1b.	0	0	12	0	0
Bishop, c.	0	0	6	0	0
Brown, r. f.	1	0	3	1	0
Johnson, p.	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	3	4	27	10	1
GIANTS.					
	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Pryor, 3b.	0	1	0	0	0
Ramsay, l. f.	0	0	1	0	0
Green, c. f.	0	1	0	0	0
Robinson, 1b.	0	0	13	0	2
Primm, c.	2	0	7	1	1
Newbern, r. f.	1	3	1	0	0
Hutchinson, s. s.	0	0	2	4	2
Young, 2b.	2	2	3	3	1
Norman, p.	1	0	0	3	0
Totals	6	7	27	11	6
A. B. C.'s.....	1	1	0	0	0
Union Giants.....	0	2	0	1	0
Innings pitched—Johnson, 9; Norman, 9. Hits—Off Johnson, 7; off Norman, 4.					

Bases on balls—Off Johnson, 2; off Norman, 2. Struck out—By Johnson, 6; by Norman, 7. Hit by pitcher—Johnson. Two-base hits—Merida, Young. Three-base hits—Herron. Double plays—Hutchinson to Robinson; Norman to Young to Robinson. Stolen bases—Herron, Brown, Johnson, Ramsey, Young. Umpire—Adams. Time—1:30.					
Second game—					
A. B. C.'s.					
	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Allen, 3b.	1	2	2	1	0
Herron, c. f.	0	1	1	0	0
Shawler, l. f.	1	1	3	0	0
Merida, c.	1	2	9	0	0
Gatewood, s. s.	0	1	2	2	0
Board, 1b.	1	0	9	1	2
Higbee, 2b.	0	0	1	0	2
Brown, r. f.	0	0	0	0	0
Washington, p.	0	2	0	4	0
Totals	4	9	27	8	4
GIANTS.					
	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Pryor, 3b.	0	2	1	0	0
Ramsay, l. f.	2	1	2	0	0
Green, c. f.	1	0	5	0	0
Robinson, 1b.	2	2	7	0	2
Talbott, r. f.	0	0	0	0	0
Newbern, c.	1	0	12	0	0
Hutchinson, s. s.	1	0	0	2	0
Young, 2b.	1	2	0	2	0
Means, p.	0	0	0	3	0
Norman, p.	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	8	7	27	8	2
A. B. C.'s.....	0	1	0	1	0
Union Giants.....	3	0	1	0	0
Innings pitched—By Washington, 9; by Means, 8; by Norman, 1. Hits—Off Washington, 7; off Means, 8; off Norman, 1. Bases on balls—Off Washington, 4; off Means, 1. Struck out—By Washington, 6; by Means, 6. Two-base hits—Shawler, Merida, Washington, Ramsey, Young. Double play—Talbott to Robinson. Stolen bases—Allen (3), Shawler, Ramsey, Young. Umpire—Adams. Time—1:45. Attendance—1,500.					

Freeman
06-20-08

CHICAGO DEFEATS BUXTON.

Special to THE FREEMAN.
BUXTON, Ia., July 28.—The Chicago Unions and the Buxton Wonders crossed bats here Sunday and Monday, July 19 and 20, in two very exciting games. Sunday the score was 6 to 2 and Monday 4 to 0. It was the first defeat for Buxton, as she has defeated all of the best amateur team of the State. The two games won here by the Unions made nineteen straight victories. The Unions were given a reception and escorted through the coal mines and were well satisfied with their visit here.

Freeman
06-20-08

Freeman
08-01-08

Going into the 1907 season William S. Peters secured Artesian Park as the home field for his Chicago Union Giants. Some of Peters' top players during the season were Joe Green (OF), "Topeka" Jack Johnson (2B), Ginney Robinson (1B), Jimmy Smith (3B) and Albert Toney (SS). According to newspaper reports that were published in the Freeman, the 1907 Chicago Union Giants were the second best team in the West right after the Leland Giants.



Chicago Union Giants
(1907)

(Standing left to right – Will Horn and "Topeka" Jack Johnson. Middle row left to right – Albert Toney, Joe Green, Jimmy Smith, George Hopkins, Ginny Robinson and unknown. Front row left to right – unknown and Sam Strothers.)

The 1908 Chicago Union Giants fielded a very good team. Fred "'Puggie" Hutchinson (SS), William Primm (C), Wes "Whip" Pryor (3B), Mack Ramsey (OF), James Shawler (OF) and Albert Toney (SS) led the team in hitting. The pitching staff in 1908 included Walter Ball, E.W. Haynes, Thomas Means, Billy Norman, Frank Talbott, Walter Taylor and William West.

CHICAGO UNIONS VS. A. B. C.S.

The crack Chicago Unions will meet the A. B. C.'s at Northwestern Park, to-day and to-morrow, and a battle royal is looked for. The Unions have four of the A. B. C.'s in their line-up—Primm, Young, Hutchinson and Talbert—and nothing would give them greater satisfaction than to defeat their old comrades. Manager Butler has strengthened his team in all departments, and states that he will capture the series. The following is the line-up:

A. B. C.'s—C. Reeves, r. f.; E. Herron, c. f.; J. Shawler, l. f.; J. Merida, 2b. and capt.; G. Board, 1b.; T. Allen, 3b.; L. Gatewood, s. s.; C. Bishop, c.; W. Higbee, p.; L. Johnson, p.; J. Davis, p.; H. Washington, p.

Chicago Unions—F. Young, r. f.; J. Green, c. f.; J. Ramsey, l. f.; G. Toney, 2b.; R. Robinson, 1b.; J. Smith, 3b.; F. Hutchinson, s. s.; W. Primm, c.; F. Talbert, p.; W. Ball, p.; G. Norman, p.

The Union Giants traveled all over the Midwest during the 1908 season and according to newspaper records compiled a very good won-loss record. After defeating the Buxton Wonders in August they had compiled a nineteen (19) game winning streak. However, at the end of the season William Peters was beat out for the top team in the West by his old nemesis Frank Leland and his Leland Giants squad.

Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
06-13-08

Chicago Union Giants (1909)

Notes of the Unions.

The Unions have been on the road since July 20, playing through Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, playing 36 games and losing only eight.

James Shawler, captain of the team, has had quiet a success with the Unions this year. He has won 22 straight games on the road, something no other colored team from Chicago has ever done before.

Jimmie Lyons, the 17 year old south-paw, is an Indianapolis boy whom Captain Shawler picked up and has made a wonderful little pitcher out of him. He has not lost but three games this season.

Frank Young, an Indianapolis boy, has had a great season at second base, playing fine ball.

"Puckie" Hutchinson has set Wisconsin on fire this season playing shortstop. The people in this part of the country claim him the fastest they ever saw.

Wesley Pryor has played good ball all season. He is a steady old boy on the third sack.

Happy Harry Hyde is holding down first base in fine style and hitting well.

Washington is the same old standby behind the bat. He has caught 115 games out of 117. Going some, eh

Lytte is pitching great ball for the team. He has had quite a number of shut-outs this season.

James Shawler is playing great ball. Although being captain it is no handicap on his playing. He has had only one error this season and is hitting the ball like a demon.

John Reeves is playing great ball for Captain Shawler in the right garden, getting everything that comes his way. Reeves is the best base runner on the team and has not been thrown out at second base this season by any catcher. John's batting is partly responsible for the Giants' success.

Freeman
09-04-09

Chicago Union Giants
Season Recap

Freeman
09-25-09

CHICAGO UNION GIANTS CLOSE SUCCESSFUL TRIP

lose Only Ten Games of Fifty-Six
Played—Several Hard-Fought
Contests in String of Victories.

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Chicago Union Giants arrived home Saturday, September 11, after finishing a successful nine weeks' trip, which ended at Richmond, Ill. They were met and congratulated by Manager J. S. Peters over their successful trip. The team left Chicago July 20 and returned September 11, making a total of fifty-eight days of playing and 56 games, using 10. The boys were proud when they were told that they had made the best winning trip that was ever made by the Chicago Union. Captain James Shawler is proud of his team. Following are the scores for the season:

July 16:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 17:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 18:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 19:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 20:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 21:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 22:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 23:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 24:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 25:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 26:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 27:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 28:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 29:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 30:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
July 31:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 1:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 2:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 3:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 4:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 5:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 6:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 7:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 8:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 9:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 10:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 11:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 12:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 13:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 14:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 15:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 16:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 17:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 18:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 19:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 20:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 21:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 22:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 23:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 24:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 25:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 26:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 27:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 28:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 29:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 30:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
August 31:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 1:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 2:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 3:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 4:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 5:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
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September 8:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 9:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 10:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 11:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 12:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 13:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 14:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 15:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 16:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 17:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 18:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 19:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 20:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 21:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 22:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 23:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 24:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 25:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 26:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 27:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 28:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 29:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
September 30:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 1:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 2:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 3:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 4:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 5:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 6:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 7:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 8:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 9:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 10:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 11:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 12:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 13:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 14:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 15:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 16:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 17:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 18:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 19:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 20:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 21:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 22:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 23:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 24:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 25:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 26:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 27:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 28:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 29:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 30:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0
October 31:	R. H. E.	Lyons and Washington.	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2 0

Played	Won	Lost	Pct.
56	46	10	.823



Chicago Union Giants
(1908)

Chicago Union Giants Enter the Lakeshore League

UNIONS HAVE JOINED LEAGUE.
Team Has Existed for Thirty Seasons
—League Season Opens May 2.

CHICAGO, Ill.—Special.—The Chicago Union Giants will do down once more in the history of baseball for being the first Colored team to own a franchise in a white league. The Unions are the oldest Colored team in the West, this being their thirtieth season. They have seen such clubs as Bowen's Eclipses, Chicago Models, Chicago Giants, Fugue Giants, Chicago Clippers, all come and go. The Unions are the first Colored team to be admitted in the Lake Shore League, one of the best paying leagues in the lower part of Wisconsin. The towns are Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, Menasha, Manitowoc, Port Washington and Sheboygan. At the meeting Sunday, in Milwaukee, Wis., after accepting the Unions to membership, they agreed to open the league May 2 and play every Saturday and Sunday until the last Sunday in October. The Unions are out for the pennant, and if they win this year, next season one of the largest and best ball parks in the West ever put up by a Colored team will be built. Manager Peters has picked one of the Indianapolis boys to captain the team this year—James Shawler. He is a gentleman and a first-class ball player.

During the 1909 season, the Chicago Union Giants played an extensive independent schedule and also played in the Lakeshore League. The teams that made up the Lakeshore League in 1909 included the Chicago Union Giants, Kenosha, Manitowoc, Menasha, Milwaukee, Port Washington, Racine and Sheboygan. All of the teams in the Lakeshore League were “white” with the exception of the Chicago Union Giants.

With a commitment to play in the highly competitive Lakeshore League, Peters signed Jimmie and Bennie Lyons to strengthen his roster.

To manage the team on the road William Peters hired John Reeves who also played center field.

Freeman
 Indianapolis, IN
 03-13-09

**Chicago Union Giants
(1909)**

**THE CHICAGO UNIONS TO HAVE
STRONG BASEBALL TEAM.**

**Several of the Indianapolis Boys Will
Land Berths — Prospects of the
Fastest Team in Years.**

Special to THE FREEMAN.

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Chicago Unions of the coming season will be one of the strongest teams in the field. The team will be composed of some of the fastest players in the game, most all of whom will be new to this team. Several of the Indianapolis stars will land berths on the Union team.

The players already booked are as follows: Jas. Shawler, left field; W. N. Pryor, third base; Frank Young, second base; John Lolla, first base; G. Washington, catch; Hutchinson or Twoney, shortstop; G. Brinkenship, right field; John Reeves, center field and manager; Lewis Johnson, William West and Frank Talbert, pitchers, and Samuel Thompson, catch.

Freeman
01-16-09

Notes of the Unions.

The Unions have been on the road since July 26, playing through Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, playing 36 games and losing only eight.

James Shawler, captain of the team, has had quiet a success with the Unions this year. He has won 22 straight games on the road, something no other colored team from Chicago has ever done before.

Jimmie Lyons, the 17 year old southpaw, is an Indianapolis boy whom Captain Shawler picked up and has made a wonderful little pitcher out of him. He has not lost but three games this season.

Frank Young, an Indianapolis boy, has had a great season at second base, playing fine ball.

"Puggie" Hutchinson has set Wisconsin on fire this season playing shortstop. The people in this part of the country claim him the fastest they ever saw.

Wesley Pryor has played good ball all season. He is a steady old boy on the third sack.

Happy Harry Hyde is holding down first base in fine style and hitting well.

Washington is the same old standby behind the bat. He has caught 115 games out of 117. Going some, eh?

Lytle is pitching great ball for the team. He has had quite a number of shut-outs this season.

James Shawler is playing great ball. Although being captain it is no handicap on his playing. He has had only one error this season and is hitting the ball like a demon.

John Reeves is playing great ball for Captain Shawler in the right garden, getting everything that comes his way. Reeves is the best base runner on the team and has not been thrown out at second base this season by any catcher. John's batting is partly responsible for the Giants' success.

Freeman
09-04-09

MANITOWOC FAILS TO SCORE.

**Chicago Union Giants Take Lake
Shore Game 1 to 0.**

MANITOWOC, Wis.—Special.—The Union Giants of Chicago and members of the Lake Shore League defeated Manitowoc in their first game of the season. Pryor's double, followed by an out and a single to left field by Hutchinson, sent Pryor home with the only run of the game.

Manitowoc.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Powell, cf.....	0	1	1	0	0
Schrieber, ss.....	0	1	2	0	0
Hoffman, lf.....	0	0	2	0	0
Raih, 1b.....	0	0	6	0	0
Hilgerink, c.....	0	0	11	0	1
Dietzler, 3b.....	0	0	1	0	0
Stockgrer, 2b.....	0	0	2	3	0
Aumann, rf.....	0	4	1	0	0
Young, p.....	0	0	1	4	0
Totals	0	6	27	7	1
Giants.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Ramsay, rf.....	0	0	1	0	0
Campbell, 2b.....	0	1	3	4	1
Young, 1b.....	0	0	14	0	0
Pryor, 3b.....	1	1	0	3	1
Shawler, lf.....	0	0	1	0	0
Hutchinson, ss.....	0	1	1	4	0
Washington, c.....	0	0	7	0	0
Lytle, cf.....	0	0	0	0	1
Davis, p.....	0	0	0	3	0
Totals	1	3	27	14	3

Two-base Hit—Pryor.
Double Play—Hutchinson to Campbell to Young.
Struck Out—By Young, 3; by Davis, 6.
Bases on Balls—Off Young, 2.
Hit by Pitched Ball—Young, Raih.
Sacrifice Hit—Hoffmann.
Stolen Bases—Ramsay, Davis.
Umpire—Herzog.
Time—One hour and fifteen minutes.
Attendance, 2,700.

NOTES OF THE GAME.

Shawler hit the ball hard and often, but could not get them safe.

Young played a marvelous game at first base.

Pryor put up a fast game at third, and gave some fine exhibition of throwing to first base.

Campbell, the midget second baseman, held his position in the Johnny Evers style.

Washington caught a great game, and his throwing to the bases was the feature.

Davis showed his class as a pitcher when three men were on base and no one down by striking out two of the opposing batters and making the third batter pop up an easy out.

Reeves, who is managing the team on the road, did some fine coaching in tight places, and showed he is capable of running a ball team.

Freeman
05-22-09

Peters fielded an excellent Chicago Union Giants team for the 1909 season that included the following starting lineup:

Chicago Union Giants (1909)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Harry Hyde	OF	James Shawler
2B	Frank Young	OF	John Reeves
SS	Fred "Puggie" Hutchinson	OF	Jimmie Lyons
3B	Wes "Whip" Pryor		
C	Tom Washington	P	Clarence "Dude" Lytle
		P	Jimmie Lyons

Davis (no first name), Charles "Pat" Dougherty, Harry Hyde, Lewis Johnson, Bennie Lyons, Wes Pryor, Frank Talbert and William West also pitched for the Chicago Union Giants during the 1909 season.



Clarence "Dude" Lytle

Chicago Union Giants
(1909)

Clarence "Dude" Lytle entered the 1909 season as the ace of the pitching staff. Lytle had an excellent season. He posted a won-loss record of 17-1 (.944) with seven (7) shutouts. From line scores that have been currently located, Jimmie Lyons had an excellent rookie season on the mound with a won-loss record of 22-2 (.917) and six (6) shut outs. Jimmie's brother, Bennie, also pitched for the Chicago Union Giants during the 1909 season and compiled a perfect won-loss record of 9-0 (1.000). According to newspaper accounts Jimmie was also one of the team's top hitters along with James Shawler (captain), Harry Hyde, Frank Young and Fred "Puggie" Hutchinson.

The Chicago Unions Giants finished the 1909 season with an impressive won-loss record of 46-10 (.822) and were also the champions of the Lakeshore League. During the season the Union Giants had a twenty-two (22) game winning streak on the road.

Other top teams in the West during the 1909 season were the Leland Giants, Kansas City Giants, St. Paul Gophers, Birmingham Giants, Illinois Giants, San Antonio Black Broncos, Indianapolis ABCs, Buxton Wonders and Minneapolis Keystones.

Both the Kansas City Giants and St. Paul Gophers claimed the 1909 "Colored World's Championship." In addition Andrew "Rube" Foster claimed that his team, the "Leland Giants," were the "Colored World's Champions" for the 1909 season even though they had lost series to both the Kansas City Giants and St. Paul Colored Gophers. In addition Foster's Leland Giants never played Peter's Union Giants. The reason that the Leland Giants and Chicago Union Giants never played each other during the season was that W.S. Peters and Rube Foster had a long

standing rift that went back several years. Rube Foster's "world championship" claim is just another good example of Rube's "fuzzy logic" when it came to presenting his team in the best possible light. Who is to say that the Chicago Union Giants should not have been given consideration for a claim to the "Colored World's Championship?"



Chicago Union Giants vs Randolph Baseball Club
Randolph, WI

When the Chicago Union Giants opened the 1910 season it was, according to newspaper accounts, their thirty-second (32) year on the road. The Union Giants started their 1910 season just like they had ended their 1909 season; they won games. Some of the key holdovers from the 1909 team were Willis Jones (OF), Jimmie Lyons (OF), Clarence "Dude" Lytle (P/OF), Mack Ramsey (2B/OF) and Tom Washington (C). One of William Peters' key player signings for the 1910 season was Robert Gilkerson who became the team's starting second baseman and team captain.

William Peters kept his team on the road during the 1910 season. They started the season with a record of 43-7 (.860) with 18 of their wins being by shut out. To add to the laurels of the pitching staff, Charles Jessup and James Harvey each pitched a no-hitter during the season. When the season ended, the Chicago Union Giants had posted a won-loss record of 104-40-3 (.722).

The Chicago Union Giants opened their 1911 season on Easter Day (April 16th) at Rockford, (IL) against a team from the Wisconsin-Illinois League. Some of the top players on the 1911 roster were Robert Gilkerson (2B), Sam Gordon (C), James Harvey (P), Horace Jenkins (P), Charles Jessup (P), Willis Jones (OF) and Charles Reese. Some researchers regard the 1911 Chicago Union Giants as the top independent team in the West for the 1911 season.

* * *

Captain Gilkerson and his Union Giants arrived in the city Monday. This is the team's thirty-second year. They played 43 games and lost 7 and made 16 shut-outs. Harvey and Jessup pitched two no-hit games; Jenkins pitched two one-hit games. On last Saturday and Sunday they played the Madison, Wis., team, the first game 8 to 4, the second 2 to 0. At Madison they were met by Mr. Peterson, the owner, and brought to Chicago for a rest. They left this week to be gone three weeks through the State of Wisconsin. The line-up: Ramsey, first base; Gilkerson, second base; Parks, shortstop; Jackson, third base; Gordon, catcher; Jones, left field; Jenkins, right field; Lee, center field; Jessup and Harvey, pitchers.



**Chicago Union Giants vs Daggett Baseball Club
Daggett, Michigan
(1911)**

By 1913 William Peters was having a difficult time signing top flight ball players. The net result was that the Chicago Union Giants were relegated to the stature of a second division team. Things got so bad that on several occasions during the season William Peters would play right field and bat at the bottom of the order. The only noteworthy player on the 1913 Chicago Union Giants team was Hurley McNair who would go on to star for the Kansas City Monarchs. Negro League historian and researcher Gary Ashwill ranks the Chicago Union Giants as only the 8th best team in the West during the 1913 season. In short, virtually every top team in the West was better than the Union Giants in 1913.



**Chicago Union Giants
(1913)**



Dick Whitworth
Chicago Union Giants
1914

Hurley McNair returned to the Chicago Union Giants for the 1914 season. Other than Mc Nair and Dick Whitworth, William Peters wasn't very successful in upgrading the rest of his roster. Box scores have been found for three games for the Union Giants for the 1914 season. In these three games Union Giants hitters only went 15 for 100 for a meager .150 batting average. McNair had 4 of these 15 hits. Without Hurley McNair in the line-up, the Chicago Union Giants would have batted .129. William Peters did sign a young 18 year old pitcher by the name of Dick Whitworth who would go on to have an impressive Negro League career. Playing primarily against lower level teams and town teams, Dick Whitworth reportedly won thirty (30) games for the 1914 Chicago Union Giants.

An interesting side note to the 1914 season is that William Peters sent his 19 year old son Frank on the road with the Union Giants. Frank was to learn the business side of a travelling baseball club so that if needed he could take it over some day.

Frank also got the opportunity to play a little shortstop for the Chicago Union Giants. Seven (7) box scores have been found for Frank Peters playing shortstop for his father's ball club. In 28 at bats he only got 3 base hits for an anemic .130 batting average.



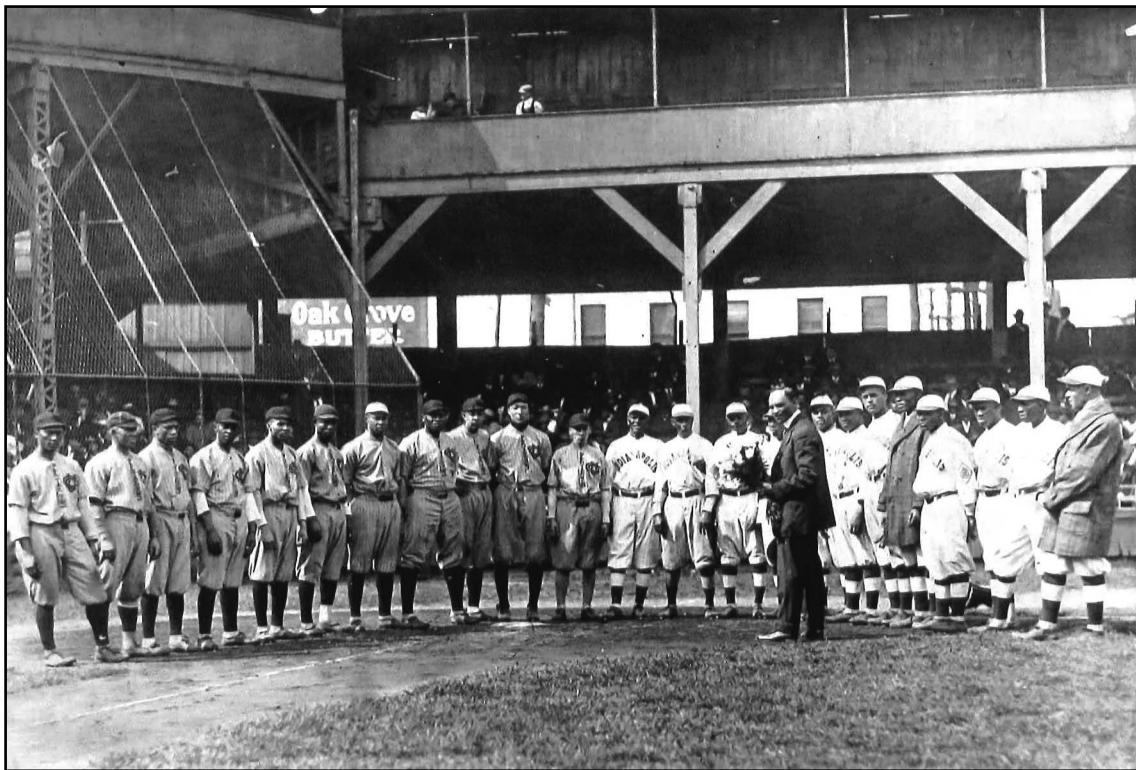
Chicago Union Giants Letterhead
(1915)

By the start of the 1915 season the Chicago Union Giants were still a second level team. During the 1915 baseball season the top teams in the West were the All Nations, Chicago American Giants, Chicago Black Sox, Cuban Stars, French Lick Plutos, Indianapolis ABCs, Louisville White Sox, St. Louis Giants and West Baden Sprudels.

According to a newspaper article that appeared in The Day Book (Chicago) February 16th edition in 1916, William S. Peters (representing the Chicago Union Giants) attended an organizational meeting held by Charles W. Murphy (former Chicago Cub president) and Jake Stahl (former Major League ball player who piloted the Boston Red Sox to a world's championship). The purpose of the meeting was to finalize arrangements for the Chicago Baseball League. Some of the other teams that sent representatives to the meeting were the Braves, Ciceros, Galligans, Joliet, Logan Square, Merrimacs, Normals, Rogers Park, South Chicago, Warren Hill, Waukegan and the Westsides.

In 1916 William S. Peters did upgrade his roster but not enough to turn the Chicago Union Giants into a top level team. Some of the better players on Peters' 1916 roster were Hurley McNair (OF), Andrew "Jap" Payne (2B), Joe Scotland (1B), Chick Harper (P) and Edgar Burch (P). During the 1916 season Frank Peters went on the road full time with his father's team as the Union Giants' travelling business manager.

Frank continued to tour with the team during the 1917 and 1918 seasons as the team's traveling business manager and also played shortstop before his father sold the club. By the time that Frank started touring with the Chicago Union Giants, they had been reduced to a low level team who had a hard time beating the small town teams and local squads that they played. After the conclusion of the 1918 season William Peters weighed all of his options and considered the future of his ball club. The net result was that Peters decided to sell the team to Robert Gilkerson who had played for him for several years and at one time had been the Chicago Union Giants team captain. The transaction took place sometime prior to the start of the 1919 season.



**Peters Chicago Union Giants vs Indianapolis ABCs
(1917)**

The sale of the Chicago Union Giants ended William S. Peters' career in professional baseball that had started in 1887 and spanned the next thirty years.

Passing of a Pioneer

William S. Peters passed away on April 2, 1933 in Chicago, Illinois. He was just 65 years old. W.S. Peters was laid to rest at Mount Glenwood Memory Gardens in Glenwood, Illinois.

Leading Colored Baseball Clubs of Chicago (1887-1909)

PERSONEL
OF THE
LEADING COLORED BASE BALL CLUBS OF CHICAGO
FROM 1887 to 1909

UNIONS—1887, ABE JONES, Manager

Abe Jones, catcher; Joe Campbell, pitcher; W. S. Peters, first base; Grant Campbell, second base; Darby Cottman, third base; Frank Scott, short-stop; Albert Hackley, left field; Frank C. Leland, center field; Orange Fox, right field.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1888, ABE JONES, Manager

Abe Jones, c.; Jos. Campbell, p.; W. S. Peters, 1st base; Frank Scott, 2nd b.; Wm. Freeman, 3rd b.; Wm. Lee, s. s.; Grant Campbell, l. f.; Al Hackley, c. f.; F. C. Leland, r. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1889, R. R. JACKSON, Manager

Abe Jones, c.; William Smith, p.; Joe Campbell, p.; W. S. Peters, 1st b.; Marshall Coffey, 2nd b.; Al Hackley, s. s.; Wm. Freeman, 3rd b.; Grant Campbell, l. f.; Frank C. Leland, c. f.; Wm. Ramsay, r. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1890, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Park 78th and Langley Avenue

Abe Jones, c.; Peter Burns, c.; George Hopkins, p.; Wm. Smith, p.; Joe Campbell, p.; Wm. S. Peters, 1st b.; Wm. Baskin, 2nd b.; Darby Cottman 3rd b.; Wm. King s.s.; Grant Campbell, l.f.; Parker, c. f.; Albert Hackley, r.f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1891, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Park 78th and Langley Avenue

Abe Jones, c.; Peter Burns, c.; Geo. Hopkins, p.; Wm. Smith, p.; Joe Campbell, p.; Wm. S. Peters, 1st b.; Wm. Baskin, 2nd b.; Darby Cottman, 3rd b.; King, s. s.; Grant Campbell, c. f.; Albert Hackley, r. f.; Parker, l. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1892, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Park, 78th Street and Langley Avenue

Abe Jones, c.; P. Burns, c.; Geo. Hopkins, p.; Joe Campbell, p.; Wm. S. Peters, 1st b.; Wm. Baskin, 2nd b.; Darby Cottman, 3rd b.; Wm. King, s. s.; Grant Campbell, l. f.; Albert Hackley, r. f.; Wm. Smith, c. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1893, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Park, 78th Street and Langley Avenue

Peter Burns, c.; Abe Jones, c.; Geo. Hopkins, p.; Joe Campbell, p.; W. S. Peters, 1st b.; Grant Campbell, 2nd b.; Darby Cottman, 3rd b.; Wm. Joyner, s. s.; Albert Hackley, l. f.; Wm. Smith, c. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1894, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Park, 37th and Butler Streets

Abe Jones, c.; Peter Burns, c.; Geo. Hopkins, p.; Wm. Holland, p.; W. S. Peters, 1st b.; Frank Scott, 2nd b.; Wm. Joyner, s. s.; Albert Hackley, c. f.; Harry Moore, l. f.; Frank Butler, r. f.; Wm. Smith, 3rd b.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1895, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Park, 37th and Butler Streets

Robert Footes, c.; Wm. Smith, p. and f.; Frank Butler, p.; Ed. Woods, p.; and 1st b.; Geo. Hopkins, 2nd b.; Albert Hackley, 3rd b.; Wm. Joyner, s. s.; Harry Moore, l. f.; Willis Jones, r. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1896, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Frank C. Leland, Traveling Manager. Park, 37th and Butler Streets

Robert Footes, c.; Harry Buckner, p.; Ed. Woods, p. and 1st b.; Harry Moore, p. and 1st b.; Geo. Hopkins, 2nd b.; Harry Hyde, 3rd b.; Wm. Joyner, s. s.; Wm. Smith, c. f.; Albert Hackley, l. f.; Willis Jones, r. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1897, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Frank C. Leland, Traveling Manager. Park, 37th and Butler Streets

Robert Footes, c.; Robert Jackson, c.; Harry Buckner, p.; R. Shaw, p.; Ed Woods, p.; Wm. Holland, p.; Lewis Reynolds, 1st b.; Geo. Hopkins, 2nd b.; Harry Hyde, 3rd b.; Wm. Joyner, s. s.; Harry Moore, l. f.; Wm. Smith, c. f.; Willis Jones, r. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1898, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Frank C. Leland, Traveling Manager. Park, 37th and Butler Streets

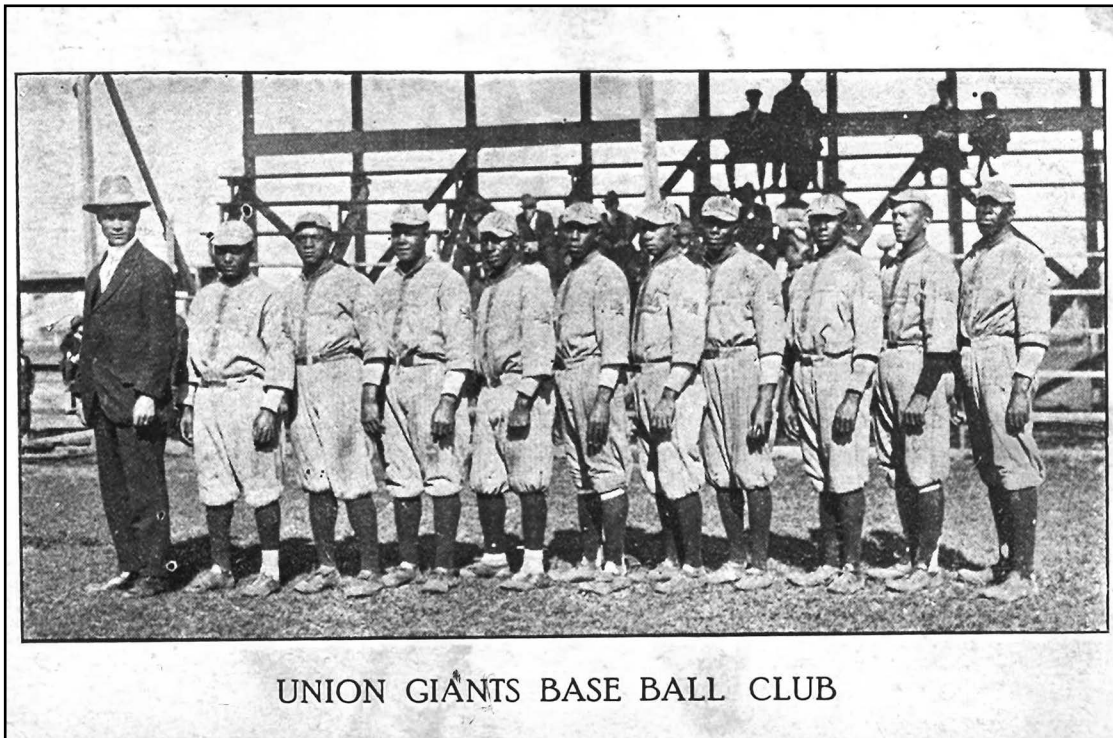
Robert Footes, c.; Robert Jackson, c.; Harry Buckner, p.; Ed Woods, p.; Wm. Holland, p.; Bert Jones, p.; Wm. Horn, p.; Lewis Reynolds, 1st b.; Geo. Hopkins, 2nd b.; Harry Hyde, 3rd b.; David Wyatt, s. s.; Harry Moore, l. f.; Wm. Smith, c. f.; Willis Jones, r. f.; Wm. Joyner, extra.

Playing Career

Year	Team	Position	League
1887	Unions	First Base	Independent
1888-1894	Chicago Unions	First Base	Independent

Managerial Career

Year	Team	League
1890-1900	Chicago Unions	Independent
1901-1905	Peters Union Giants	Independent
1906-1917	Chicago Union Giants	Independent
1909	Chicago Union Giants	Lakeshore League
1909-1918	Chicago Union Giants	Independent



Chicago Union Giants

Leading Colored Baseball Clubs of Chicago (1887-1909)

Taylor, 1st b.; P. Roberts, 2nd b.; Harry Hyde, 3rd b.; James Smith, s. s.; Chas. Green, c. f.; G. Milliner, l. f.; David Wyatt, r. f.

CHICAGO UNION GIANTS—1904, FRANK C. LELAND, Manager

Wm. Brown, Traveling Manager. Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue.

Wm. Dewberry, c.; Wm. Bings, c.; Thos. Means, p.; Dell Matthews, p.; Arthur Ross, p.; Geo. Taylor, 1st b.; Danger Talbert, 2nd b.; Harry Hyde, Jrdb.; Albert Toney, s. s.; Sherman Barton, l. f.; Chas. Green, c. f.

LELAND GIANTS—1905 FRANK C. LELAND, Manager

Wm. Brown, Traveling Manager. Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue.

Bob Robinson, c.; Wm. Prim, c.; Wm. Holland, p.; Arthur Ross, p.; Wm. Horn, p.; John Davis, p.; Geo. Taylor, 1st b.; Nathan Harris, 2nd b.; Wm. Bings, Jrdb.; James Smith, s. s.; Sherman Barton, l. f.; Chas. Green, c. f.; Dell Matthews, r. f. The above team made a record of 48 straight games won.

LELAND GIANTS—1906, FRANK C. LELAND, Manager

Wm. Brown, Traveling Manager. Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue.

Bruce Petway, c.; Andrew Campbell, c.; Wm. Gatewood, p.; Howard Petway, p.; John Davis, Clarence Lytle, p.; Geo. Taylor, 1st b.; Danger Talbert, 2nd b.; Wm. Irwin Jrdb and Albert Toney, s.s.; James Smith, b. f.; Barton, l. f.; Chas. Green, c. f.

LELAND GIANTS—1907 FRANK C. LELAND, General Manager

Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue.

James Booker, c.; Haywood Rose, c.; Andrew Foster, p.; Wm. Gatewood, p.; Walter Ball, p.; Wm. Norman, p.; Harry Moore, 1st b.; Nathan Harris, 2nd b.; Danger Talbert, 3rd b.; Geo. Wright, s. s.; Clarence Winston, l. f.; Andrew Payne, c. f.

LELAND GIANTS—1908, FRANK C. LELAND, General Manager

Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue.

James Booker, c.; T. Strothers, c.; Andrew Foster, p.; Walter Ball, p.; Bowman, p.; Wm. Norman, p.; Harry Moore, 1st b.; Nathan Harris, 2nd b.; Danger Talbert, 3rd b.; Geo. Wright, s. s.; Clarence Winston, l. f.; Preston Hill, c. f.; Andrew Payne, r. f.

LELAND GIANTS—1909, FRANK C. LELAND, President

Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue.

James Booker, c.; T. Strothers, c.; Andrew Foster, p.; Wm. Norman, p.; Walter Ball, p.; P. Dougherty, p.; Wm. Gatewood, p.; Harry Moore, 1st b.; Nathan Harris, 2nd b.; Danger Talbert, 3rd b.; Geo. Wright, s. s.; Clarence Winston, l. f.; Preston Hill, c. f.; Chas. Green, l. f.; Andrew Payne, r. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1899, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Frank C. Leland, Traveling Manager. Park, 37th and Butler Streets.

Robert Footes, c.; Robert Jackson, c.; Bert Jones, p.; Wm. Horn, p.; Wm. Holland, p.; Bert Wakefield, 1st b.; Geo. Hopkins, 2nd b.; Harry Hyde, Jrdb. Wm. Monroe, s. s.; Harry Moore, l. f.; Willis Jones, r. f.; Wm. Joyner, extra.

COLUMBIA GIANTS—1899, AL H. GARRETT, Manager

Park, 39th Street and Westworth Avenue

P. Harris, c.; Geo. Wilson, p.; Joe Miller, p.; Harry Buckner, p.; Geo. Johnson, 1st b.; Chas. Grant, 2nd b.; Wm. Bings, 3rd b.; Grant Johnson, s. s.; John Patterson, l. f.; Sherman Barton, c. f.; Lewis Reynolds, r. f.

CHICAGO UNIONS—1900, W. S. PETERS, Manager

Frank C. Leland, Traveling Manager. Park, 37th and Butler Streets

Robert Footes, c.; Robert Jackson, c.; Thomas Means, p.; Bert Jones, p.; Wm. Horn, p.; Bert Wakefield, 1st b.; Harry Hyde, 3rd b.; Wm. Monroe, 2nd b.; Harry Moore, l. f.; Willis Jones, r. f.; Wm. Joyner, extra; Grant Johnson, s. s.

COLUMBIA GIANTS—1900, A. H. GARRETT, Manager

Park, 39th Street and Westworth Avenue

Peter Burns, c.; Geo. Wilson, p.; Joe Miller, p.; Harry Buckner, p.; Geo. Johnson, 1st b.; Chas. Grant, 2nd b.; Wm. Bings, 3rd b.; Sol White, s. s.; John Patterson, l. f.; Sherman Barton, r. f.; Wm. Holland, c. f.

CHICAGO UNION GIANTS—Organized July 17, 1901—FRANK C. LELAND, Manager

Joe Miller p.; Lytle, p.; Bert Jones, p.; Mitchell, c.; Wakefield 1st b.; Harry Moore, 2nd b.; Danger Talbot, 3rd b.; George Richardson, s. s.; Willis Jones, l. f.; Albert Toney, c. f.; Wm. Joyner, r. f.

CHICAGO UNION GIANTS—1902, FRANK C. LELAND, Manager

Wm. Brown, Traveling Manager. Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue

Geo. Johnson, c.; Robert Footes, c.; Joe Miller, p.; Andrew Foster p.; Lytle, p.; Harry Hyde, 1st b.; David Wyatt, 2nd b.; Wm. Bings, 3rd b.; Danger Talbot, s. s.; John Patterson, l. f.; Willis Jones, r. f.; Wm. Joyner, c. f.

CHICAGO UNION GIANTS—1903, F. C. LELAND, Manager


Park, 79th Street and Westworth Avenue

Andrew Campbell, c.; Robert Footes, c.; Walter Ball, p.; Jos. Miller, p.; John Davis, p.; Arthur Ross, p.; Geo

Selected Career Highlights

- William S. Peters started his baseball career as a first baseman for the Unions in 1887 and then played for the Chicago Unions from 1888 to 1894.
- Prior to the start of the 1888 season William S. Peters joined with Frank Leland and two other Chicago businessmen to form the Chicago Unions.
- According to Negro League researcher, Gary Ashwill, the 1897 and 1900 Chicago Unions were considered the “Colored Champions of the West.”
- In 1899 the Chicago Unions played the Cuban X-Giants for the “Colored World’s Championship.” Sol White, member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and author of the first book on black baseball, considered this the first real “championship” series between a team from the East meeting a team from the West. The Cuban X-Giants won nine of the fourteen games for the title.
- In 1900 the Chicago Unions defeated the Cuban X-Giants to become the “Colored World’s Champions.”
- Under the leadership of William S. Peters and Frank Leland, the Chicago Unions (1888-1900) built a winning tradition in the Midwest and were consistently one of the best if not the best black baseball team in the Midwest/West. According to black baseball historian, Sol White, the Chicago Unions had a career won-loss record of 613-118-2 (.814).
- Under the management of William S. Peters, the Chicago Union Giants were considered the top team in the West for the 1905 and 1906 seasons.
- William S. Peters led his Chicago Union Giants to the Lakeshore League title in 1909.
- The 1909 Chicago Union Giants posted an impressive won-loss record of 46-10 (.822) and were one of the top teams if not the best team in the West during the 1909 season.
- The Chicago Union Giants started the 1910 season with a won-loss record of 43-7 (.860), 18 shutouts and two no-hitters. At the end of the season they were 104-40-3 (.722).
- The Chicago Union Giants are regarded by some historians and researchers as the top team in the West for the 1911 season.
- William S. Peters’ baseball career ended prior to the start of the 1919 season when he sold his team to Robert Gilkerson who renamed the team “Gilkerson’s Union Giants.”

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO FAIRS AND OTHER LARGE CELEBRATIONS

 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">FRANK PETERS FILLING HIS FATHERS SHOES ON THE DIAMOND</p>	<p style="font-size: small;">L. B. PETERS, ASSISTANT MANAGER</p> <p style="font-size: small;">W. S. PETERS, JR., TREASURER</p> <p style="font-size: small;">TELEPHONE HAYMARKET 2556</p> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold; margin: 10px 0;">THE CHICAGO UNION GIANTS</p> <p style="font-size: large; font-weight: bold; margin: 0 0 10px 0;">BASE BALL CLUB</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 20px;">OLDEST COLORED TEAM ON THE ROAD OUR 36TH SEASON</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 20px;">ADDRESS W. S. PETERS, MANAGER 1411 GRAND AVENUE</p>
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Chicago Unions Giants
(1899)



(Top row left to right – **Willis Jones**, **Bill Holland**, Robert Jackson, Bill Joyner and Dave Wyatt. Middle row left to right – Harry Hyde, Bob Foote, **William S. Peters**, Bert Jones and **Harry “Mike” Moore**. Bottom row left to right – Arnett, **Harry Buckner**, **Frank Leland** and George Hopkins)