

Forgotten Heroes:

Grant “Home Run” Johnson



by

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Findlay Sluggers (1894)

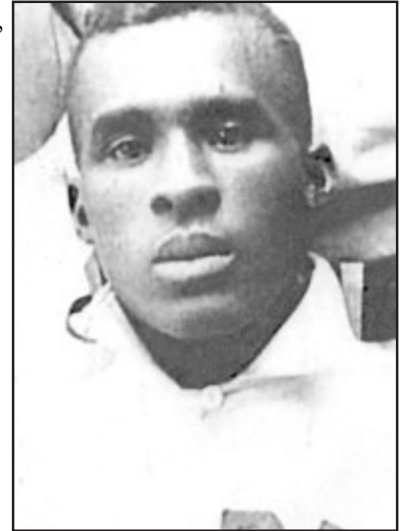
Grant Johnson started his professional baseball career with the Findlay Sluggers. In 1894 Grant Johnson teamed with fellow black ball player Bud Fowler to lead Findlay to a very successful season. It was during the 1894 season that Grant Johnson reportedly hit 60 homeruns for the Findlay Sluggers. His 60 homeruns earned him the nickname of “Home Run” that would stay with him for the rest of his life.



Findlay Sluggers (1894)

(Back row – Harvey Pastorius, Fred Cook, Howard Brandenburg and Bill Reedy. Middle row left to right – **Grant “Home Run” Johnson**, George Darby, Charles Stofel, Bobby Woods and **Bud Fowler**. Front row left to right – F. Schwartz and Kid Odgen)

Grant “Home Run” Johnson was born on September 21, 1872 in Findlay, Ohio. Researchers differ on Grant’s actual date of birth and the year he was born. Everyone agrees that he was born in September, but three different dates (21st, 23rd and 24th) have been listed as the day he was born. The 1900 census reports Grant Johnson being born in September of 1872 with no actual day identified. His obituary, however, states that he was born on September 21, 1874 in Findlay, Ohio and that he was the son of Charles and Elizabeth (Warner) Johnson. His grave stone lists only the years for his birth and death. It lists him as having been born in 1872 and died in 1963.



Grant Johnson
1872-1963

During his playing career he was known by the nickname of “Home Run” and in the latter part of his career he was often referred to as “Dad” by his younger teammates.

Johnson batted from the right hand side of the plate and threw right handed. During his playing days he stood five feet ten inches tall and weighed 170 pounds. He started his career as a shortstop and during the latter part of his career he also played a lot of second base.

Offensively he is considered the best hitter of his era by many people. At the plate Johnson was considered to be a natural hitter with a disciplined swing who seldom struck out. He was given the nickname “Home Run” because of his power. Besides having home run power, Grant was an excellent line drive hitter. He also performed extremely well under pressure. Johnson once told a reporter “when I did (strike out) I surprised myself.” He was undoubtedly one of the greatest black hitters of the Dead Ball Era. Sol White thought so highly of Grant Johnson’s hitting ability that he asked him to write the chapter on hitting when he was putting his legendary book ([A History of Colored Baseball](#)) together. According to Grant the secret to being a good hitter was “above all waiting for a good pitch.” Sol White asked Andrew “Rube” Foster to write the chapter on pitching.

Defensively he came up as a shortstop and was considered a very good fielder with excellent range and a strong, accurate throwing arm. When he got older and teamed with John Henry “Pop” Lloyd who was also a shortstop, Grant moved to second base. The middle infield combo of Lloyd-Johnson was considered the best in black baseball at that time.

An interesting side note to Grant Johnson’s overall athletic ability was reported in the [Chicago Tribune](#) on January 11, 1901. The newspaper article covered a boxing match between Grant Johnson (captain of the Chicago Giants) and Con Riley (professional boxer). The two combatants met on January 10th in Findlay, Ohio. Johnson won a six round decision over Riley. In the story Riley was quoted as saying Johnson is the fastest amateur boxer he ever faced.

As a person he has often been described as having exemplary character, honorable and unselfish. On the field he hustled and was always a professional. He seldom argued with umpires and was respected by his peers. With the fans he was always a crowd favorite because of his good playing and his overall personality.

Early Baseball Career

While attending Public School 9, Grant Johnson honed his baseball skills on the playgrounds and sandlots in Findlay, Ohio. By at least 1893 he was the starting shortstop for the Findlay Sluggers who were a very strong semi-professional team that traveled around the Midwest. On October 7, 1893 Grant Johnson hit two home runs off Tony Mullane to lead Findlay to a 5-4 win over the



Bud Fowler
Findlay Sluggers
(1894)

Cincinnati Reds of the National League. Also playing for Findlay at this time was another African American player by the name of John “Bud” Fowler. After a brief appearance with the Cuban Giants at the start of the 1894 season, Johnson returned to Findlay for the remainder of the season. Reportedly during the 1894 season Johnson hit 60 homeruns for the Findlay Sluggers. From that time forward, Grant Johnson was known by the nickname of “Home Run.”

Negro League Career

According to research by Larry Lester and Dick Clark, Grant Johnson began his professional career when he was signed by the Cuban Giants in April of 1894. The Cuban Giants fielded a strong team that included Frank Grant (SS), John W. “Pat” Patterson (OF), William T. Whyte (2B) and Clarence Williams (C). From April 23rd to May 27th Johnson appeared in 20 games at shortstop and first base for the Cuban Giants. His professional debut was a huge success. Johnson went 32 for 90 for a .356 batting average with a .567 slugging percentage. Grant also scored 34 runs and drove in 21 runs in these 20 games. His best game for the Cuban Giants came on May 14th when he went 4 for 5, drove in 3 runs and had 2 stolen bases. The 1894 Cuban Giants were considered by many as the “Colored Champions of the East.”

After his brief stint with the Cuban Giants, Grant returned to the Findlay Sluggers and finished out the 1894 season with his home town team. Johnson also played several games for a team in Dubuque (IA) in 1894. During the 1894 season Bud Fowler sought to capitalize on the popularity and success of Grant Johnson by trying to form his own team with Johnson. They were going to call their new team the “Findlay Colored Western Giants.” Unfortunately, they couldn’t secure any financial backing for the project.

Besides local competition and town teams, the Findlay Sluggers also played several games against Major League and Minor League opponents during the 1894 season. One of these games was a matchup against the Cincinnati Reds of the National League on September 13th. Cincinnati won the game by a score of 10-2. Findlay also played two games against the Detroit Tigers of the Western League in September and won both of these games. The Findlay Sluggers closed out the month of September with a one run loss to the Brooklyn Bridegrooms of the National League. Brooklyn was a formidable opponent who had finished the 1894 National League season with a fifth place finish in the final league standings and a won-loss record of 70-61 (.534). The game against Brooklyn was played on September 20th.

Fowler and Johnson Form the Page Fence Giants

After their failure to form a “new” team based out of Findlay (OH), Bud Fowler and Grant Johnson were still intent on putting together their own team. Earlier in the 1894 season when Bud Fowler was in Adrian (MI) playing a game in August of 1894, Bud told the Adrian Times and Exposition in an interview that he was interested in bringing a team to Adrian if he could secure the financial backing. Teaming with his old friend Grant Johnson, L.W. Hoch and Rolla L. Taylor, the group was successful in forming the Page Fence Giants. The announcement of the team was made to the general public on September 21, 1894 in a newspaper article that appeared in the Adrian Times and Exposition. Financial backing for the new team came from J. Wallace

Page who owned the Page Woven Wire Fence Company (Adrian, MI) and the Monarch Bicycle Company (Boston, MA). The Page Woven Wire Fence Company was the largest fence company in the country at the time.

Even though the Page Fence Giants had no home field in Adrian their base of operations would always be in Adrian. The Page Fence Giants were a road team that barnstormed primarily in the states of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. With strong financial backing, the team traveled first class in a private railroad car that was equipped with sleeping quarters, a cook and porter.

When the Page Fence Giants were officially organized Augustus S. Parsons was named as the business manager, Bud Fowler was the player/manager and Grant “Home Run” Johnson was the starting shortstop/captain.



Page Fence Giants (1895)

(left to right – Walker, **Charlie Grant**, **George Wilson**, John W. Patterson, Pete Burns, Augustus W. Patterson, Unknown, **Grant “Home Run” Johnson**, Unknown, Billy Holland and Unknown.)

The Page Fence Giants were proponents of playing clean baseball and signed players of high moral character who didn’t drink or smoke. Five of the original members of the 1895 team were reported to be college graduates. Page Fence Giants players were paid \$ 100 per month which was a very good salary, especially for a country that was in the midst of a depression.

During the 1895 season the team was scheduled to play over 130 games during the season. The Page Fence Giants season started in April and ended in October. The team drew crowds everywhere they traveled. Reportedly, they averaged about 1,500 fans per game. One of the things that the Page Fence Giants did to advertise the game was to conduct a parade down the “Main Street” of the town in which they were playing. All of the players rode their Monarch bicycles in the parade.

The Page Fence Giants fielded a star-studded line-up during their first season that included:

Page Fence Giants (1895)

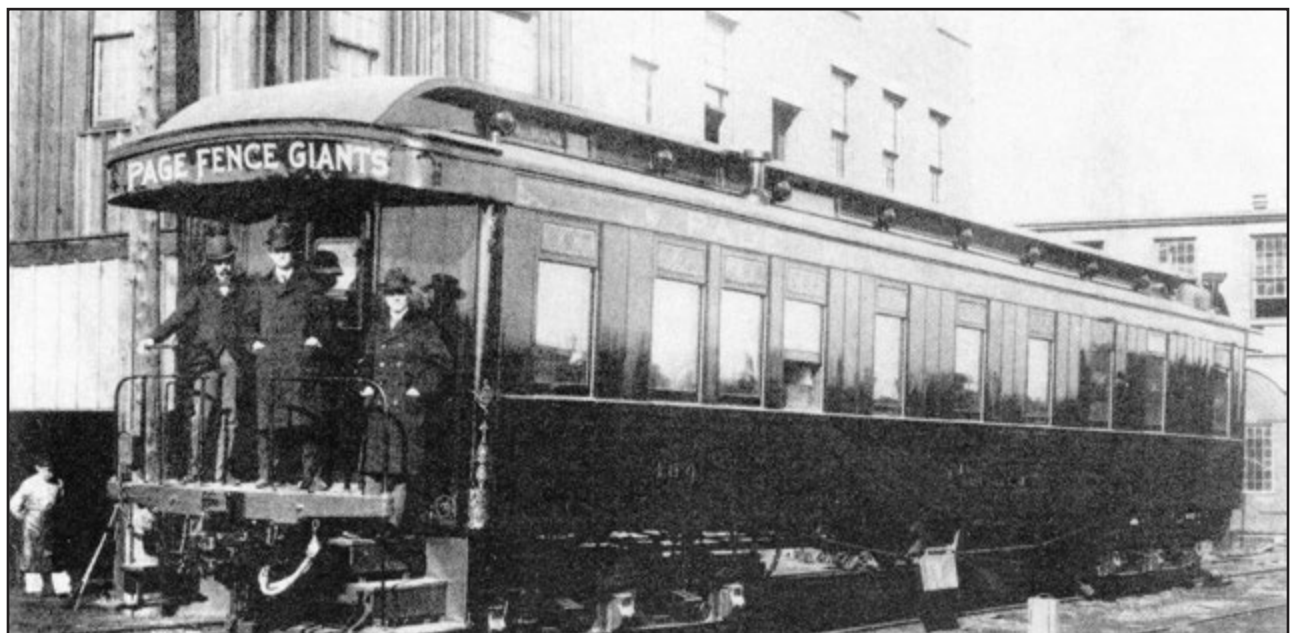
Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	George Taylor	OF	Sol White
2B	Bud Fowler	OF	Gus Brooks
SS	Grant "Home Run" Johnson	OF	Vasco Graham
3B	John "Pat" Patterson		
C	William Binga	P	George Wilson

George Wilson was the ace of the pitching staff with a record of 29-4 for the 1895 season. Also pitching for the Page Fence Giants in 1895 were Bill Holland, William Malone, Joe Miller and Fred Van Dyke.

The team got off to a slow start at the beginning of the season. The Page Fence Giants played their first professional game on April 9, 1895 against the Indianapolis Hoosiers of the Western League. Things started bad for the Page Fence Giants when they gave up eight runs in the first inning and went on to a 26-1 defeat. Then in mid-April after they lost two games to the Cincinnati Reds (National League) by the scores of 11-7 and 16-2, the Page Fence Giants signed black baseball star Sol White in an attempt to bolster the starting line-up.

Tragedy struck the Page Fence Giants during their inaugural season when Gus Brooks their starting centerfielder collapsed and died on the field. Brooks became the first fatality associated with black baseball.

During the 1895 season six members of the Page Fence Giants were recruited by the "all white" Adrian Reformers of the Michigan State League to bolster their roster for a series against the Owosso Colts. These players were William Binga (C), Pete Burns (C/OF), Bud Fowler (2B), Vasco Graham (OF), Joe Miller (P) and George Wilson (P). Binga, Burns and Wilson returned to the Page Fence Giants after their short stint with Adrian.



Page Fence Giants – Private Railroad Car

According to research by John Holway, Grant “Home Run” Johnson led the team in hitting during the season. Holway reports Grant as batting .471 for the 1895 season.

Over the course of the 1895 season the Page Fence Giants played games in 112 different towns and cities. After a slow start they ended their inaugural season with an excellent won-loss record. In games against all levels of competition, they went 118-36-2 (.766), went 8-7 in games against teams in the Michigan State League and lost both of the games they played against the Cincinnati Reds of the National League. Other top teams in the West during the 1895 season included the Chicago Unions, Cuban Giants and Cuban X-Giants.

Before the start of the 1896 season, the Page Fence Giants signed Charlie Grant to take the place of Bud Fowler who had been their second baseman in 1895. With Homerun Johnson at short and Charlie Grant at second base, the Page Fence Giants had the best middle infield in black baseball. Also signed to take the place of outfielder Gus Brooks who had died on the field the year before was George “Chappie” Johnson. Other stars of the 1896 team were George Taylor (1B), William Binga (3B), Pete Burns (C) and Vasco Graham (OF). The pitching staff for the Page Fence Giants in 1896 was as follows: George Wilson, Bill Holland and Fred Van Dyke.



Page Fence Giants (1896)

(Grant “Home Run” Johnson – back row second from right)

The team played great baseball the entire season and had an outstanding record of 80-19 (.808) through August 1st. During the season the Cuban X-Giants and Page Fence Giants were considered two of the top teams in black baseball in the country. The Cuban X-Giants and Page Fence Giants faced each other fifteen (15) times during the season with Page Fence taking ten (10) victories to five (5) wins for the Cubans. By their domination of the Cuban X-Giants and their overall exemplary won-loss record, the Page Fence Giants claimed the title of the “Colored World’s Champions.”



Page Fence Giants – Game Action

After being a significant force in black baseball during their first two seasons, the Page Fence Giants turned in their best performance in the team's history during the 1897 season. They finished the season with an unbelievable won-loss record of 125-12 (.912) with a reported winning streak of 82 consecutive victories. By virtue of their astounding won-loss record, the Page Fence Giants billed themselves as the "Colored World's Champions" for the third year in a row.

Leading the way for the team in the hitting department in 1897 for the Page Fence Giants were William Binga (C/OF), Peter Burns (OF/C), Charles Grant (2B), George "Chappie" Johnson (1B/C), Grant "Home Run" Johnson (SS), John "Pat" Patterson (3B), George Taylor (1B), Ed Wilson (OF) and Ed Woods (OF/P). During the first part of the 1897 season the Page Fence Giants lost Bill Holland to Bill Peter's Chicago Unions and George Wilson also left the team. Even without a dominate pitcher on their roster on a consistent basis, the Page Fence Giants made due with who they had at the time and continued to win ball games all season. Over the course of the season, the pitching staff for the Page Fence Giants during the 1897 season included at one time or another Joe Miller, Bill Holland, R. Shaw, Charles Howard, Fred Van Dyke, George Wilson and Ed Woods.

The 1898 season would be the last for the Page Fence Giants. Even though they were incredibly successful on the field, the team was very expensive to run. The roster for the 1898 Page Fence Giants was basically the same as the season before with the exception of the loss of the following three players: Bill Holland, Fred Van Dyke and Ed Wilson. Two new additions were made to the team for the 1898 season. Sherman Barton was signed as a pitcher to the starting rotation and ace pitcher George Wilson returned to the club after a two year absence. Grant "Home Run" Johnson was back as the captain of the team, starting shortstop and the team's leading hitter.

Due to limited newspaper coverage, the final won-loss record for the team for the 1898 season is not currently known. The main competition for the Page Fence Giants during the 1898 season was Bill Peter's Chicago Unions who were led by the pitching of former Page Fence Giants pitcher Bill Holland. Even though we don't have "official" won-loss records, the Page Fence Giants were still considered the best black team in the country and claimed the title of "Colored World's Champions." When the Page Woven Wire Company dropped its financial backing at the end of 1898 the Page Fence Giants were forced to disband.

Even though the Page Fence Giants had a very short four year career (1895-1898) in professional baseball, they are still considered one of the top teams in the history of early years of black baseball in America.

In October of 1898 the Fort Wayne News published a newspaper story that Bud Fowler and Grant Johnson had leased grounds in Findlay (OH) and would field a team for the 1899 baseball season. It does not appear that the Fowler-Johnson team in Findlay for the 1899 season ever materialized.

Instead of fielding their own team for the 1899 season Grant Johnson and Bud Fowler along with pitcher George Wilson joined the “all white” team in Findlay, Ohio. After a brief appearance with Findlay, Grant Johnson and George Wilson left the team and signed with the Chicago Columbia Giants. Bud Fowler stayed a little longer with Findlay but his white teammates convinced the team’s owner, Dr. W.H. Drake, to release Fowler. After his release from Findlay, Dr. Drake and Bud Fowler formed the All-American Black Tourists.



Charlie Grant
Columbia Giants

The Columbia Chicago Giants were a brand new team playing in its first season. The team had been organized by the Columbia Club of Chicago under the direction of John W. Patterson. The Columbia Club was an organization of Chicago’s top black business men and professionals. The team was headquartered in Chicago at 39th Street and Wentworth Ave. The Columbia Giants were billed as the finest equipped team in traveling baseball with gray traveling uniforms and a set of white uniforms for home games. Columbia Park in Chicago was the home field of the Columbia Giants.

Fielding the team’s roster for a start-up club was usually an incredibly difficult task, but not so for the Columbia Giants. When the Page Fence Giants folded virtually the entire roster from Page Fence were signed by the Columbia Giants. Grant “Home Run” Johnson became the team’s manager and starting shortstop when he joined the team. The only key addition to the team who had not played with Page Fence was ace pitcher Harry Buckner who had been signed away from the Chicago Unions.

Sherman Barton (OF), William Binga (3B), Peter Burns (C), Charlie Grant (2B), George “Chappie” Johnson (1B), Grant “Home Run” Johnson (SS), John “Pat” Patterson (OF) and Louis Reynolds (OF) led the team in hitting during the 1899 season.

The combination of Grant Johnson at shortstop and Charlie Grant at second base gave the Columbia Giants the best middle infield in black baseball.

Box scores have been found for 21 games when “Home Run” Johnson played for the 1899 Chicago Columbia Giants. In these 21 games, Johnson collected 38 hits in 92 “official” at bats for a .413 batting average and a .641 slugging percentage. His complete hitting statistics for these 21 games are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1899	Columbia	21	92	23	38	4	1	5	24	0	.413	.641

**GREAT BALL GAMES
SCHEDULED HERE**

**PLAYED AT ATHLETIC PARK
DURING JUNE.**

Nebraska Indians and Columbia Giants
Play June 4 and 6 —Chicago Unions
and the Cuban Giants Matched for
June 11—Greatest Colored Teams In
the West—Y. M. C. A. Team.

During the month of June local base
ball admirers will have the opportunity
of witnessing what promises to be three
warmly contested events. Athletic Park
has been leased for three games to be
played by teams second to none in the
west outside of the regular league clubs.

On June 4 and 6 the Nebraska Indi-
ans play the Columbia Giants. These
two games are between teams that have
a wide reputation. The Nebraska Indian
team is composed entirely of Indians
who are experts in handling the ball.
This team recently made a trip east win-
ning a large per centage of games. The
Columbia Giants were the former famous
Page Fence Giants and are a colored
team. Wilson, their pitcher, is today
considered to be the best of his class in
the field and its only his color that bars
him from playing in the National
league.

On June 11 at Athletic Park the Chi-
cago Unions and the Cuban Giants are
matched for a game that promises to be
full of interest.

Both these teams are composed of
colored men who are second to none as
professionals.

Chicago Unions
vs
Cuban Giants

Janesville Daily Gazette
Janesville, WI
05-10-00

The pitching staff for the Columbia Giants included Harry Buckner, Joe "Cannonball" Miller and George Wilson. The starting rotation of Buckner, Miller and Wilson was considered one of the best if not the best starting rotation in all of black baseball in 1899. Al "Hal" Garrett was selected as the manager of the 1899 Chicago Columbia Giants.

The Chicago Columbia Giants drew extremely well at home during the season, especially when they played their cross town rival the Chicago Unions. Travelling on the road was, however, a completely different situation. The team struggled with attendance and that caused financial problems.

From all newspaper reports, the 1899 Chicago Columbia Giants appear to have had a very successful season. They capped their inaugural season off by beating the Chicago Unions for the title of "Western Colored Champions." The Columbia Giants won game one of the championship series by a score of 4-2 and then took the second game 6-0. After defeating the Chicago Unions, they met the Cuban X-Giants for the "Colored World's Championship." Unfortunately for Chicago, they were defeated by a score of 7-4. Grant "Home Run" Johnson did hit two homeruns during the three game championship series.

Prior to the start of the 1900 season, Grant Johnson signed with the Chicago Unions as the team's manager and starting shortstop. The Chicago Unions were founded in 1887 by Abe Jones and according to Negro League researcher John Holway was only one of two black professional teams (Cuban Giants were the other team) to survive the Panic of 1893. The team was taken over by William S. Peters in 1890. When Grant Johnson joined the team for the 1900 baseball season, Peters was still the team's manager but relinquished his responsibilities to Johnson. The Chicago Unions played their home games at Union Park in Chicago during the 1900 season.

During the 1900 season, the Chicago Unions were led by the hitting of Robert Footes (C), Grant Johnson (SS), Bill Monroe (2B) and Harry "Mike" Moore (OF). Eight (8) box scores have been found for Grant "Home Run" Johnson playing for the 1900 Chicago Unions. In these eight games he went 12 for 35 for a .343 batting average and a .543 slugging percentage. William "Bill" Horn, Bert Jones, George Miller and Thomas Means pitched for the Unions during the season.

The main rival to the Chicago Unions during the 1900 season were Grant Johnson's old team, the Chicago Columbia Giants. The Columbia Giants were a formidable opponent whose roster included Harry Buckner, Bill Binga, Charles Grant, Bill Holland and Sol White. However, by the end of the season the Chicago Unions were considered the "Colored Champions of the West" in 1900. The Cuban X-Giants and the Genuine Cuban Giants were the top two teams in the East during the 1900 baseball season.

In 1901 Frank Leland signed numerous players from the rosters of the Chicago Unions and Chicago Columbia Giants to form the Chicago Union Giants. Instead of signing with Frank Leland and going to the Chicago Union Giants with many of his Chicago Unions team mates, Grant instead chose to return to the Chicago Columbia Giants as the team's player/manager. The top players for the 1901 Chicago Columbia Giants in 1901 were Harry Buckner (P/OF), Sherman Barton (OF), Charlie Grant (2B), Will Horn (P), Chappie Johnson (C) and John Patterson (OF).

The 1902 season for the Chicago Columbia Giants saw almost a complete turnover in their roster. Only Harry Buckner (P/OF) and Grant Johnson (SS/Manager) remained from the 1901 Columbia Giants squad. The team also changed its home ball park to Southside Park III. Grant Johnson played the 1901 and 1902 seasons with the Chicago Columbia Giants and appears to have been their leading hitter. The Chicago Union Giants behind the pitching of Andrew "Rube" Foster who picked up 51 wins during the 1903 season were the top team in the West in 1903.

Current research has only uncovered a limited number of box scores for the Chicago Columbia Giants for their 1901 and 1902 seasons. Therefore, we are nowhere close to knowing the won-loss records for the team or batting statistics for the players for either season.



Grant Johnson
Cuban X-Giants

Under the leadership and management of E.B. Lamar, Jr. the Cuban X-Giants were a very strong team. But when Lamar signed Andrew "Rube" Foster away from the Chicago Unions and Grant "Home Run" Johnson from the Chicago Columbia Giants for the 1903 season, the Cuban X-Giants would become a championship team. Foster became the ace of the pitching staff and Johnson was the team's manager and X-Giants' starting shortstop. In 1903 the Cuban X-Giants fielded a tremendously strong line-up that virtually had no weakness. It is Important to note that there were no Cuban or Latin players on the roster of the Cuban X-Giants. Their starting line-up for the 1903 season was as follows:

Cuban X-Giants (1903)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Robert Jordan/Sol White	OF	Andrew "Jap" Payne
2B	Charlie Grant	OF	Mike Moore
SS	Grant "Home Run" Johnson	OF	Will Jackson
3B	John Hill		
C	William "Big Bill" Smith	P	Andrew "Rube" Foster
C	George "Chappie" Johnson	P	Dan McClellan
C	Clarence Williams	P	Harry Buckner

When Lamar signed Grant Johnson as the team's starting shortstop, Grant teamed with Charlie Grant at second base to give the Cuban X-Giants the best middle infield in black baseball. In 1903 Johnson was also the captain of the Cuban X-Giants.

Cuban X-Giants Defeat Major League Pitcher Rube Waddell

On August 2, 1903 the Cuban X-Giants played Murray Hills who were a strong semipro team in New York. The game was played at Olympia Field which was located at 135th Street and Lennox Avenue in New York City.

To strengthen his line-up against the formidable X-Giants team, Nat Strong brought in Philadelphia Athletics ace pitcher Rube Waddell. Rube played the game under the name "Wilson" to circumvent any problems with his Philadelphia team or Major League baseball.

Rube Foster pitched the Cuban X-Giants to a 6 to 3 win over the Major League pitcher.

Cuban X-Giants in Harlem.

The strong colored team of ballplayers, the Cuban X-Giants, will be the Murray Hills' opponents on Olympia Field, One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street, and Lenox avenue, on Sunday. The Cubans have a big list of victories this year, but Manager Strong is going the rounds with bets that his Harlem boys will break up the colored fellows' streak.

New York Evening World
New York City, NY
07-28-03

RUBE WADDELL AFRAID TO GIVE HIS ARM A REST.

Says Charles Dryden: "We deem it worth while to announce that Mr. Waddell is still taking splendid care of himself, and framing up a scheme to win the next game he pitches. The actor man has been unlucky of late, but he predicts that a change will soon come. Rather than has his wonderful arm go stale by resting on the Holy Sabbath, the strenuous Mr. Waddell pitched an exhibition game on that day and lost it.

"The Cuban X-Giants whacked the 'Reuben' about a dozen times, and he struck out twelve of the Africans. Because his catcher had no life insurance Mr. Waddell was obliged to cut out his curve ball. The catcher couldn't stand the pace, and the coons bumped the speedy straight ones.

"The giant pitcher hit our southpaw in the head, but as the people seemed to like it, Waddell didn't mind. 'Rube' played with the Murray Hill team and hit the hottest foul tip on record. The ball whizzed into the stand and struck a man on the side. He had in his pocket a box of matches that blew up and became ignited. The coat was ruined and the gentleman was pretty well done on one side before they got him extinguished. Some queer freaks have been recorded in the history of baseball, but this one takes the bun. 'Rube' not only saves people from the flames, but he sets them on fire as well. Nothing like it."

Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh, PA
08-05-03

AT OLYMPIA FIELD.												
M. H. Hills	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	7	0
Cuban X-Giants	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	11	0
Pitchers - Wilson and O'Neill; Foster and Smith.												

Cuban X-Giants vs Murray Hills w/Rube Waddell
Game Line Score

New York Sun
08-03-03

Negro League historians and researchers differ on Grant Johnson's productivity during the 1903 season with the X-Giants. Researchers Larry Lester and Dick Clark credit Johnson with a .269 batting average for the season. Gary Ashwill and his Seamheads research team credit Grant with a .296 batting average. The reason for the differences lies in the fact that both research groups have a different number of games that they analyzed.

Andrew "Rube" Foster was the ace of the pitching staff and had one of the best seasons in the history of black baseball in America. Newspaper reports credit Rube Foster with 51 wins for the 1903 season.

According to research by John Holway the Cuban X-Giants along with the Philadelphia Giants joined the "white" Tri-State League during the 1903 season. A number of "white" teams also played in the Tri-State League. The "white" teams that played in the "league" were Altoona, Harrisburg, Lancaster and Williamsport. Both the Cuban X-Giants and Philadelphia Giants claimed the Tri-State League championship title at the end of the regular season.

While the actual won-loss record of the Cuban X-Giants is not known, newspaper accounts credit them with having had an exceptional season and winning 44 consecutive games during the 1903 season.

One of the highlights of the 1903 season for the Cuban X-Giants was a game they played against Murray Hills in early August. The Murray Hills squad was a very strong semiprofessional team that was managed by Nat Strong. For their game against the X-Giants, Murray Hills employed the pitching services of Rube Waddell who was the ace of the pitching staff for the Philadelphia Athletics. Philadelphia was in town for a game with the New York Highlanders but had the day off because it was illegal to play Major League baseball in New York on Sundays. To avoid any problems with Philadelphia or Major League baseball, Waddell pitched under the name of "Wilson." Rube Foster pitched for the Cuban X-Giants who won the game by a score of 6 to 3.

At the end of the 1903 season there was no question that the Cuban X-Giants and the Philadelphia Giants were the two best teams in black baseball. The two teams met in September of 1903 to crown a champion. The series was to go eight games, but the Cuban X-Giants won five of the first seven games so there was no reason to play the eighth game of the series. Rube Foster took control of the series in game six which was played on September 18th in Harrisburg (PA). Led by Foster's pitching and hitting (triple, double and two singles), the Cuban X-Giants took a 12-3 victory. Rube Foster closed out the series in game seven with a 2-0 shutout over Philadelphia. By defeating the Philadelphia Giants, the Cuban X-Giants claimed the "Colored Championship of the East" and the "Colored Championship of the World."

A summary of the 1903 championship series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Sept 12 th	Cuban X-Giants	4-2	Rube Foster	William Bell
2	Ridgewood (NJ)	Sept 13 th	Cuban X-Giants	8-1	Dan McClellan	Harry Buckner
3	Ridgewood (NJ)	Sept 13 th	Philadelphia	5-2	William Bell	Dan McClellan
4	Trenton (NJ)	Sept 14 th	Cuban X-Giants	3-1	Rube Foster	Charles Carter
5	Camden (NJ)	Sept 15 th	Philadelphia	3-0	Charles Carter	Dan McClellan
6	Harrisburg (PA)	Sept 18 th	Cuban X-Giants	12-3	Rube Foster	Charles Carter
7	Camden (NJ)	Sept 26 th	Cuban X-Giants	2-0	Rube Foster	Charles Carter

During the championship series, the Cuban X-Giants were led by the hitting of Robert Jordan (.560) and the pitching of Rube Foster (4-0 w/ 1.50ERA). The Philadelphia Giants were led by the hitting of Sol White (.320) who earlier in the season had played with the Cuban X-Giants and the pitching of Charles "Kid" Carter (1-3 w/ 4.50 ERA).

Johnson Travels to Florida

In January of 1904 Grant Johnson traveled to Palm Beach, Florida with several other Cuban X-Giants players to play for the Royal Poinciana Resort in the Florida Hotel League. From late January to mid-March the Royal Poinciana and Breakers Hotel played each other in the Florida Hotel League or Coconut League as it was sometimes referred to as. During the winter black ball players would travel to Florida and take jobs as bellmen, porters, cooks, dish washers and waiters in the big resort hotels. Bellmen, bus boys, porters, waiters and lower level jobs were generally paid from \$23 to \$ 33 a month. Dining room head waiters and restaurant captains were paid from \$ 40 to as much as \$ 75 per month. The players also received room and board as part of their compensation. They roomed in a barracks near the hotel and ate with the hotel staff.

Each winter season management of the Breakers and Royal Poinciana would form baseball teams and games would be scheduled for the entertainment of the hotel guests. The two teams would generally play a fourteen (14) game schedule during their season.

There appears to have been no newspaper coverage for games played during the 1904 season, but the following roster for the Royal Poinciana team was published in the local newspaper.

Royal Poinciana (1904)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Sol White	OF	Pete Hill
2B	Charlie Grant	OF	Emmett "Scotty" Bowman
SS	Grant "Home Run" Johnson	OF	Bill Monroe
3B	Mike Moore	P	Andrew "Rube" Foster
C	William "Big Bill" Smith	P	Emmett "Scotty" Bowman
Utility	John Hill	P	Dan McClellan



Royal Poinciana

(Standing left to right – Emmett "Scotty" Bowman, unknown, **Rube Foster**, unknown, Mike Moore and **Grant "Home Run" Johnson**. Front row left to right – **Pete Hill**, John Hill, **Sol White**, unknown and **Charlie Grant**.)

“Home Run” Johnson Returns to the Cuban X-Giants

After being soundly beaten in their championship series with the Cuban X-Giants in 1903, the Philadelphia Giants were determined that this would not happen in 1904. To achieve this end Walter H. Schlichter, owner of the Philadelphia Giants, raided the roster of the Cuban X-Giants and signed five of the X-Giants starting line-up to play for the Philadelphia Giants. These players were Andrew “Rube” Foster (P), Charlie Grant (2B), John Hill (3B), George “Chappie” Johnson (C) and Andrew “Jap” Payne (OF). The biggest losses for the Cuban X-Giants were Rube Foster who was considered the best pitcher in black baseball and Charlie Grant who was considered the best second baseman in the game. Also gone from the 1904 roster for the Cuban X-Giants were outfielders Oscar Jackson and Ed Wilson.



Cuban X-Giants (1904)

(Back row left to right – W. Wilson, James Robinson, Clarence Williams, John W. “Pat” Patterson and Grant “Home Run” Johnson. Kneeling left to right – Walter Ball, William Jackson, Edward Wilson, Harry Buckner, Harry “Mike” Moore and Dan McClellan.)

The one player that Schlichter couldn’t sign was Grant “Home Run” Johnson. When Johnson arrived at spring training for the Cuban X-Giants for the 1904 season, he found a new starting line-up in place. To replace the void left by the departure of Rube Foster, the Cuban X-Giants signed pitchers Walter Ball and Harry Buckner. They also picked up John W. “Pat” Patterson from the Philadelphia Giants to replace Charlie Grant at second base.

Even though they lost more than half their starting lineup, the Cuban X-Giants played good baseball the entire season. At the end of the season the Cuban X-Giants and Philadelphia Giants were considered the two best teams in the East. A three game “Colored Championship” series in Atlantic City (NJ) was scheduled in early September to crown a champion. Behind the pitching of Andrew “Rube” Foster the Philadelphia Giants took two of the three games and were crowned the “Colored Champions of the World.” Foster won both games he pitched and led the team in hitting for a .445 batting average. In game one of the series Rube Foster struck out eighteen (18) Cuban X-Giants hitters and in game three he limited the X-Giants to only two hits. Andrew “Rube” Foster had simply destroyed his former team mates. The series loss for the Cuban X-Giants was caused by their anemic hitting. In the three games that were played the X-Giants were held to a

.144 team batting average. Grant “Home Run” Johnson and Bill Jackson were the only two Cuban X-Giants who delivered at the plate. Both hitters went 3 for 12 for a .333 batting average. A summary of the 1904 “Colored Championship” series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Atlantic City	Sept 1 st	Philadelphia	8-4	Rube Foster	Dan McClellan
2	Atlantic City	Sept 2 nd	Cuban X-Giants	3-1	Harry Buckner	William Horn
3	Atlantic City	Sept 3 rd	Philadelphia	4-2	Rube Foster	Dan McClellan

Grant Johnson Joins the Philadelphia Giants

Prior to the start of the 1905 season, Grant Johnson was signed by the Philadelphia Giants as their starting shortstop. As if the Philadelphia Giants were not already a great team, they got even better with Johnson’s bat in the line-up and his defensive play at shortstop. The move to Philadelphia also reunited Johnson with his former second baseman Charlie Grant. With “Homerun” Johnson at shortstop and Charlie Grant at second base, the Philadelphia Giants had the best middle infield in black baseball.

The 1905 Philadelphia Giants roster with Sol White as their player-manager was one of the best teams that ever played in the history of black baseball in America. Their starting lineup included:

Philadelphia Royal Giants (1905)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Sol White	OF	Pete Hill
2B	Charlie Grant	OF	Emmett “Scotty” Bowman
SS	Grant “Home Run” Johnson	OF	Dan McClellan
3B	Harry “Mike” Moore		
C	James “Pete” Booker	P	Andrew “Rube” Foster
C	Tom Washington	P	Dan McClellan
Utility	Bill Monroe	P	Emmett “Scotty” Bowman



Philadelphia Giants (1905)

(Top row left to right – H. Smith, Mike Moore, Emmett Bowman, **Sol White**, Tom Washington and **Dan McClellan**. Middle row left to right – **Grant “Home Run” Johnson**, **Charlie Grant**, Walter Schlichter, **Andrew “Rube” Foster** and **Pete Hill**. Front row left to right – William “Bill” Monroe and Pete Booker.)



Philadelphia Giants (1905)

(Back row left to right – **Grant “Home Run” Johnson**, **Andrew “Rube” Foster**, Emmett Bowman, Walter Schlitcher, **Sol White**, Pete Booker and **Charlie Grant**. Front row left to right - Unknown, **Pete Hill**, Unknown, Mike Moore and Bill Monroe)

Pete Hill was the leading hitter for the team in 1905. Over the season Hill collected over 200 hits, 36 doubles, 12 triples, 10 homeruns and 30 stolen bases. Charlie Grant collected just under 200 hits that included 28 doubles and 8 homeruns. Bill Monroe was also an offensive threat with 25 doubles, 15 triples, 6 homeruns and 34 stolen bases. Eight players on the Giants roster collected at least 100 hits each and six players scored at least 100 runs each during the season. In addition five players stole at least 20 bases each.

Grant Johnson matched Pete Hill’s homerun production with ten (10) homeruns to lead the team. Grant almost certainly would have hit more homeruns during the 1905 season if he had not missed 13 games due to an injury and then was brought up before his injury had the proper amount of time to heal. During the season Johnson had six (6) games in which he collected four (4) hits and sixteen (16) games when he got three (3) hits. Being unselfish at the plate, Grant is also reported to have led the team in sacrifice hits and number of times being hit by a pitch.

As a team the Philadelphia Giants collected almost 1,500 hits and scored over 1,000 runs during the 1905 season. These statistics are even more impressive when you take into consideration that Grant Johnson, Bill Monroe and Sol White suffered through an injury-plagued season. Grant Johnson was injured on May 18th when he separated a tendon in his leg in a game against Chester.

Even though Philadelphia had a strong hitting team that scored runs, the real strength of the Giants was their starting pitching rotation of Andrew “Rube” Foster, Dan McClellan and Emmett “Scotty” Bowman. The three pitchers had a combined won-loss record of 101-20, pitched over 20 shutouts, pitched 1035 innings during the season and struck out over 700 opposing hitters. One of the highlights of the season for Rube Foster was a no-hitter that he pitched against Camden on August 22nd. Philadelphia won the game by a score of 3-0.

Grant Johnson also pitched for the Philadelphia Giants when the team needed a fourth starter. According to newspaper accounts he used a submarine style delivery and was very effective when called upon to take the mound. During the season Grant pitched two shutouts. On April 19th he beat Howard University by a score of 13-0 and June 30th he shutout St. Peters of Reading (PA) by a score of 3-0. Two other box scores have been found with Johnson pitching for the Giants. He defeated Pottstown on July 14th by a score of 7-1 and then beat the very powerful Lynn Shoemakers from the New England League by a score of 6-1 on July 29th.

Not only did the Philadelphia Giants have excellent hitting and great pitching, but they could also run the bases. As a team the Giants stole over 220 bases for the season. The leading base stealers for Philadelphia in 1905 were Bill Monroe (34), Pete Hill (33), Mike Moore (26), Charlie Grant (24), Home Run Johnson (22) and Emmett Bowman (18).

Philadelphia was a travelling team. They played baseball seven days a week and very seldom did they stay in the same city for more than three days. When they weren't playing ball, they were traveling to the next game. Their mode of travel was by train which always insured that they would be on time for their next game.

The 1905 Philadelphia Giants started the season strong and never looked back. During the season the Giants played numerous Minor League teams. Early in the season on April 6th through April 8th, they played a three game series against the Newark Sailors of the Eastern League (Class A) and won all three games by the scores of 5-3, 6-4 and 10-4. In the first game against Newark "Home Run" Johnson lived up to his billing by slugging two home runs and driving in four runs in the 5-3 win for the Philadelphia Giants. In addition, Grant hit another homerun in game three. Another highlight of the early part of the season for the Philadelphia Giants was handing Chester a 13-4 loss. This was Chester's first loss of the season.

Philadelphia played great baseball all season. The overall strength of the team may be best measured by the fact that they beat at least seven (7) different minor league teams. These teams were Bridgeport Orators (Connecticut League), Harrisburg Senators (Tri-State League), Haverhill Hustlers (New England League), Johnstown Jonnies (Tri-State League), Manchester Colts (New England League), Newark Senators (Eastern League) and the Norwich Reds (Connecticut League). Several of these they defeated multiple times.

According to Negro League great and Negro League historian, Sol White, when the regular season ended the Philadelphia Giants had compiled a record of 134-21-3 (.865). Of their twenty-one (21) losses, thirteen came from five (5) teams. Of the fifty-seven (57) different teams that they faced during the 1905 season, the Philadelphia Giants had the most trouble with the following teams: Lynn of the New England League (4 losses), New York Manhattans (3 losses), Brighton (2 defeats), Camden (2 defeats) and Plainfield (2 losses). During the season, the Philadelphia Giants had winning streaks of twelve (12), nineteen (19) and twenty-two (22) games. As a team they were nearly unbeatable.

By the end of the regular season, the Philadelphia Giants and the Brooklyn Royal Giants were the top two teams in the East. In mid-September the two teams met in Philadelphia for a "championship series." Grant "Homerun" Johnson had two doubles and stole two bases in the third game to lead Philadelphia to a 7-2 victory for the series title. Philadelphia swept Brooklyn in three straight games to win the title.

A summary of the 1905 Colored World's Championship Series between the Philadelphia Giants and the Brooklyn Royal Giants is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Philadelphia	Sept 14 th	Philadelphia	2-0	Emmett Bowman	B. Merritt
2	Philadelphia	Sept 15 th	Philadelphia	7-6	Rube Foster	-
3	Philadelphia	Sept 16 th	Philadelphia	7-2	Dan McClellan	B. Merritt

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

Johnson Signs with the Brooklyn Royal Giants

In 1904 John W. Connors who owned the Brooklyn Royal Cafe in Brooklyn (NY) organized the Brooklyn Royal Giants. 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**

The team found success in their first two seasons and even played the Philadelphia Giants for the “Colored Championship of the World” in 1905. After being soundly defeated by Philadelphia, Connors 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, Connors 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 Connors signed the following players to strengthen the Royal Giants roster: Jack Emery (P), Robert Fouts (C), Bill Holland (P/3B) and Bill Monroe (3B).

It is important to note that some researchers list Grant 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 6th and he was also with them when they closed out their season in September.



Brooklyn Royal Giants (1906)

The 1906 Brooklyn Royal Giants were led by the hitting of Grant “Home Run” Johnson (.372), Andrew “Jap” Payne (.350), Bill Monroe (.324), James Robinson (.302) and Eugene Milliner (.291). Some of the other veteran ball players that appeared for Brooklyn during the 1906 season were William Binga (OF), Robert Footes (C), Billy Holland (3B), W. “Nux” James (2B), George “Chappie” Johnson (1B) and John W. “Pat” Patterson (OF). Grant Johnson’s pitching staff for the season included Bill Holland, Bill Merritt, Lefty “Pop” Andrews, Jack Emory, “Cannonball” Miller and Charles “Kid” Carter.

Twenty-one (21) box scores have been found for Grant “Home Run” Johnson playing for the Brooklyn Royal Giants in 1906. His hitting statistics for these games are as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1906	Brooklyn	21	86	20	32	10	2	3	21	1	.372	.449

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), 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 fourth best black team in the East during the 1906 season. Johnson’s former team, the Philadelphia Giants, were still the best black team in the East in 1906 with a won-loss record of 134-21 (.865).



Brooklyn Royal Giants

(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, J.W. Connor, Billy Holland and Charles “Kid” Carter.)

Other top black teams that played within a 100 mile radius of Brooklyn during the season were 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.

**COLORED BASEBALL MEN
ORGANIZE ASSOCIATION**

Clubs in New York, Philadelphia
and Havana, Cuba, for purpose
of safeguarding their interests
and gaining public confidence.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 10.—Under the name of the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba, the Philadelphia Giants of Philadelphia, the Cuban X-Giants and the Cuban Giants of New York, the Royal Giants of Brooklyn and the Cuban Stars of Havana, Cuba, have banded together for the perpetuation of colored baseball by surrounding it with such safeguards as will warrant public confidence in its integrity and methods. Walter Schlichter of the Philadelphia Giants has been elected president.

The Anaconda Standard
Anaconda, MT
11-11-06

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 second in the American League for the 1906 Major League season. The Brooklyn Royal Giants won both of the games.

In November of 1906 the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States was formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 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 J.W. Connors, 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). The primary goal of the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs was to bring organization, stability and profitability to “colored” baseball.

Johnson Returns to Florida

Before the start of the 1907 season, Grant Johnson traveled to Florida to play for the Royal Poinciana Resort in the Florida Hotel League. Limited newspaper coverage has been found for the 1907 season in Florida. Of the four games that have been found, the Royal Poinciana won three games and the Breakers only won one game.

During the winter season of 1907, the Palm Beach Resort and the Miami Resort also formed baseball teams. Unlike the Royal Poinciana and Breakers, they employed “white” professional Major and Minor League players. Some of the key players that played for Palm Beach in 1907 were Malcolm “Kid” Eason (Brooklyn Dodgers), Clyde Engle (Cleveland Indians), Miller Huggins (Cincinnati Reds) and Bill Maloney (Chicago Cubs). The Miami Resort signed Major Leaguers Phil Lewis (Brooklyn Dodgers) and Tom Needham (Boston Braves).



Royal Poinciana
Florida Hotel League

Game Action

The highlight of the winter season in Florida in 1907 was when a combined team that was made up of players from the Royal Poinciana/Breakers squared off against the Palm Beach/Miami team. The Royal Poinciana-Breakers team was led by Grant “Home Run” Johnson, Emmett Bowman, Pete Booker, Phil Bradley, Frank Earle and Bobby Winston. Seven games were played in the series. The Royal Poinciana-Breakers team won the series with a record of 4-2-1 (.667).

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), 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.

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 number two team in the East during the 1907 season.

After two years of being a good team, Grant Johnson was determined to take his team to the next level. In order to do that Johnson revamped his starting line-up 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 Earle who became the ace of the pitching staff. Holdover players that contributed to the Royal Giants overall improvement of the Royal Giants were Phil Bradley (C/OF), Nux James (C), Grant “Home Run” Johnson (SS), Bill Monroe (3B) and Harry Buckner (P).

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.

The leading hitters for the 1908 Brooklyn Royal Giants were Ashby Dunbar (.381), Kid Boots (.364), Nux James (.347), Bill Monroe (.337), Jules Thomas (.320), Grant Johnson (.312), Charles Earle (.312) and Harry Buckner (.292). 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.

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. In addition the Brooklyn Royal Giants were the champions of the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States. The final “league” standings for the 1908 season were as follows:

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

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

Grant Johnson was back with 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 to achieve so much success the year before. 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.

From all newspaper accounts 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’s Brooklyn Royal Giants also repeated as the champions of the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States. The final “league” standings for the 1909 season were as follows:

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

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

After having back to back championship seasons and winning three titles in 1909 for the Brooklyn Royal Giants, Grant Johnson thought he deserved to own a piece of the team. When John W. Connor refused, Grant left the team to sign with the Leland Giants. The rift between Connor and Johnson got even worse when Connor accused Johnson of trying to take players with him when he went to the Leland Giants.

In December of 1909 Harry Daniels, noted Eastern newspaper correspondent and writer, chose a colored All-American colored baseball club. Grant Johnson was chosen at second base and as the team's captain and Sol White was selected as the team's manager. On December 23rd Daniels released his complete all-star team which was as follows:

Harry Daniels' All-American Team (1909)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Al Robinson	RF	Frank "Pete" Duncan
2B	Grant "Home Run" Johnson	CF	Bill Monroe
SS	John Henry "Pop" Lloyd	LF	Charles Earle
3B	Sam Gordon		
C	Bruce Petway	P	Dan McClellan
C	Phil Bradley	P	Bill Gatewood
		P	Peter "Ed" Green
		P	Charles "Bugs" Hayman

Obviously Daniels was biased toward Eastern players when he chose his team. It is very interesting that Harry Daniels left off his All-American team such notables as Walter Ball (P), Andrew "Rube" Foster (P), Nate Harris (2B), Mike Moore (1B), Andrew "Jap" Payne (OF) and Pete Hill (OF).

Johnson Leaves the Royal Giants



Andrew "Rube" Foster

For years Leland Giants had been one of the best if not the best black baseball team in the country. The Leland Giants were founded in 1905 by Frank Leland. Andrew "Rube" Foster joined the team in 1907 and became partners with Leland. Prior to the start of the season Frank Leland and Rube Foster parted ways. Rube Foster won the rights in court to the name Leland Giants and Frank Leland formed a "new" team that he called the Chicago Giants. Rube Foster was the owner, manager and one of the starting pitchers for the 1910 season. In 1910 the Chicago Leland Giants played their home games at both Normal Park and Gunther Park.

Rube Foster's priority for the Chicago Leland Giants before the 1910 season got underway was to strengthen his starting line-up. Players signed by Foster who also became starters for the 1910 Chicago Leland Giants season included Frank "Pete" Duncan (OF), Grant "Home Run" Johnson (2B), John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (SS), Bruce Petway (C) and Frank Wickware (P). The 1910 Chicago Leland Giants are considered one of the best teams in the entire history of Negro League baseball.



Chicago Leland Giants (1910)

(Back row left to right – Bruce Petway, **Pop Lloyd**, **Pete Hill**, Pat Dougherty, Bill Lindsay, Frank Wickware and **Rube Foster**. Seated left to right – **Grant Johnson**, Pete Booker, Jap Payne, Sam Strothers, Pete Duncan and Wes Pryor)

The starting line-up for the 1910 Chicago Leland Giants was as follows:

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Pete Booker	RF	Andrew “Jap” Payne
2B	Grant “Home Run” Johnson	CF	Pete Hill
SS	John Henry “Pop” Lloyd	LF	Frank “Pete” Duncan
3B	Wesley Pryor	P	Andrew “Rube” Foster
C	Bruce Petway	P	Frank Wickware
		P	Charles Dougherty

Pete Hill (.511), John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.371), Grant Johnson (.326), Frank Duncan (.307) and Pete Booker (.302) were the team’s leading hitters during the 1910 season. Frank “The Red Ant” Wickware was the ace of the pitching staff during the season. Charles Dougherty, Rube Foster, Bill Lindsay and William Sublette also pitched for the Leland Giants during the 1910 season. Pete Hill and Grant Johnson also pitched during the season. Grant won all of the games he pitched.

The Chicago Leland Giants started the 1910 season off with a barnstorming tour through the South. Some of the teams that they played and defeated during the tour included the Dallas Black Giants, Moss Point (MS) Giants, New Orleans Eagles and Pensacola Giants. With a starting line-up of outstanding hitters and an excellent pitching staff the Leland Giants were virtually unbeatable from the start of the 1910 season. They started the season with a thirty-five (35) game winning streak and it wasn’t until early June that they suffered their first defeat of the season. Their first defeat came at the hands of the Gunthers who were an extremely strong semi-professional team. The Leland Giants went down by a score of 3-1 at Gunther Park. It took former Minor League pitcher Earl Rugar to give the Leland Giants their first taste of defeat. They didn’t meet with their second defeat until a month later. This time they were beaten by the Stars of Cuba at Normal Park in Chicago by a score of 15-7.

Reportedly, the 1910 Chicago Leland Giants compiled an overwhelming won-loss record of 123-6 (.953). They were considered the “Colored Champions of the West” and the “Colored World’s Champions.” Other top teams in the West during the 1910 season were the Chicago Giants, French Lick Plutos, Stars of Cuba and the West Baden Sprudels.

During the 1910 season, Rube Foster offered a challenge with a side bet up to \$ 3,000 to any team that could beat his Chicago Leland Giants. He got no takers.

After the regular season in September and October, the Chicago Leland Giants barnstormed back East. The highlight of their Eastern tour was beating Trenton of the Tri-State League in a double header on September 27th. The Leland Giants won both games by the score of 9-3 and 5-3. Frank Wickware picked up the win in game one and Charles Dougherty got the victory in game two.

“Home Run” Johnson Signs with the Chicago Giants

After only one season with the Chicago Leland Giants, Grant Johnson started the 1911 season with the Philadelphia Giants as the team’s player/manager. Grant “Home Run” Johnson was the leading hitter and the big drawing card for Philadelphia. When he left the Philadelphia Giants in June to join Frank Leland’s Chicago Giants he was hitting .393 for the start of the season.

The 1911 Chicago Giants were led by the hitting of Grant Johnson (SS), Frank “Pete” Duncan (OF), Harry “Mike” Moore (1B), William Parks (SS), Zack Pettus (C) and Bobby Winston (OF). Walter Ball, Bill Gatewood and Smokey Joe Williams were the team’s top pitchers. From the seventeen (17) box scores that have been found for Grant Johnson, he went 28 for 75 for a .373 batting average and a .480 slugging percentage for the 1911 season.

The Chicago Giants played their home games at Schorling Park and were considered the fourth best team in the West in 1911. William “Zack” Pettus was the player/manager of the Giants.



Chicago Giants
vs
Chicago American Giants

Colored World's Championship Series

Schorling Park
Chicago, IL

Indianapolis Freeman
07-08-11

In early July of 1911, the Chicago Giants faced off in a “championship” series with Rube Foster’s Chicago American Giants. The winner of the series was to be declared the “Colored World’s Champion.” Going into the championship series the Chicago Giants, according to newspaper reports, had a better won-loss record than Foster’s American Giants and were a 3 to 1 odds on favorite to take the title. The series was reported to have included eleven (11) games. Box scores have not been found for two of the first five games. For the three games that have been found, the Chicago American Giants had won two and the Chicago Giants had won one game. Game six of the series ended in controversy and caused a break in the series. The Chicago American Giants were leading by a score of 4-3 going into the Chicago Giants half of the eighth inning. The Chicago Giants appeared to have scored two runs in the eighth on a throwing error to give them a 5-4 lead. Rube Foster of the Chicago American Giants protested and convinced the umpire to



Athletic Day at Schorling Park

Indianapolis Freeman

10-21-11

disallow one of the runs on what he thought was “interference” by the Chicago Giants runner. When Frank Leland protested, the umpire ruled that the Chicago Giants had forfeited the game to the Chicago American Giants. The umpire required a police escort in order to get safely out of the stadium. The series was resumed on July 29th when Charles Dougherty (Chicago American Giants) and Walter Ball (Chicago Giants) hooked up in a pitching duel that ended with the American Giants coming away with a 1-0 victory. The next day Frank Wickware of the American Giants defeated Bill Gatewood of the Chicago Giants by a score of 6-3 to give the series title to the Chicago American Giants.

The Chicago Giants got a measure of revenge when they defeated the Chicago American Giants by a score of 5 to 1 in mid-August and then defeated the American Giants again in mid-October when Rube Foster was hosting Athletic Field Day at Schorling Park.

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 were 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.

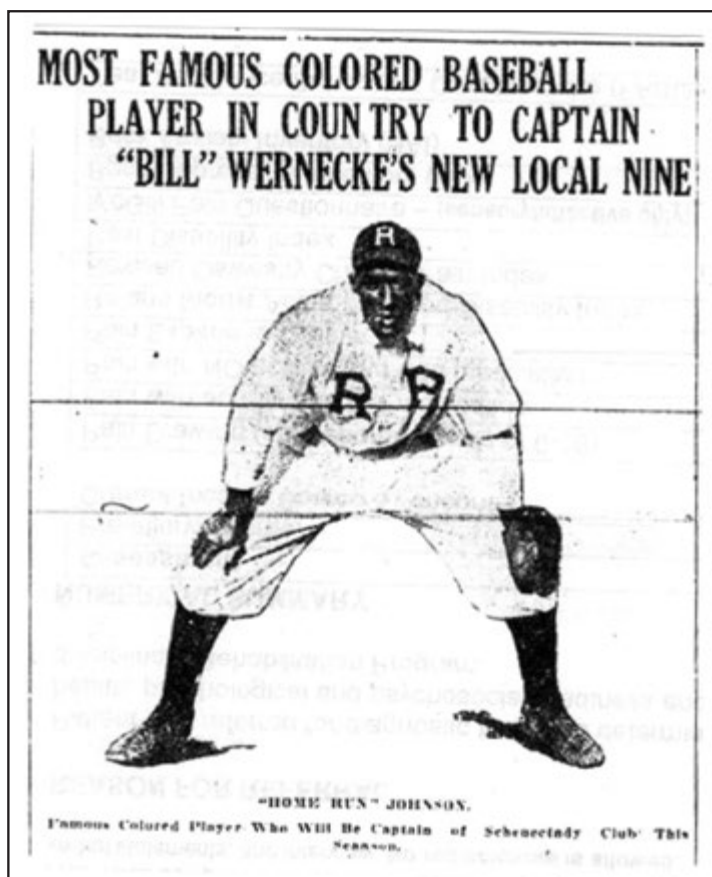
Pearl Webster (.373), Grant Johnson (.355), Hurley Mc Nair (.318), Bill Kindle (.316), Grant “Home Run” Johnson (.306) and Bill Handy (.279) were the team’s top hitters for the Brooklyn Royal Giants during the 1912 season. Pop Andrews, Frank “The Red Ant” Wickware, Dizzy Dismukes, Johnny Goodgame, Jesse Shipp and Sam Crawford all pitched for Brooklyn in 1912.

After the regular season Grant Johnson also played briefly for the New York Lincoln Giants in October of 1912.

Mohawk Colored Giants Entice Johnson to Leave New York City

Prior to the start of the 1913 baseball season, Bill Wernecke who was a former semi-professional ball player and General Electric employee leased Island Park which was the best baseball park in Schenectady (NY). His plan for filling the seats in the stadium was to form his own team. Through the efforts of African-American ball player “Big Bill” Smith, Wernecke formed the Mohawk Colored Giants. Black baseball was nothing new to Schenectady. Every year black teams played in the city and they were always very well received. The gamble for Wernecke was would the city of Schenectady support a black baseball team not for just a couple of games a year but for an entire season. Making Wernecke’s plan even more risky was the fact that Schenectady had a very small African-American population. According to United States Census of 1910, Schenectady only had 274 African-Americans residing in a city with a total population of 72,826.

The big deciding factor for black players coming to Schenectady was easy. It was the lure of big money. With “Big Bill” Smith getting the word out and recruiting, it was very easy for Wernecke to sign a roster of high caliber black ball players.



Schenectady Gazette

Schenectady, NY

03-04-13

Grant "Home Run" Johnson was one of the first to respond. According to a story that appeared in the Schenectady Gazette on March 04, 1913 Grant "Home Run" Johnson was going to captain the Mohawk Colored Giants.

Other high level black ball players that signed with the Mohawk Colored Giants for their inaugural season were Walter Ball (P/1B), Pete Booker (C), Phil Bradley OF/1B/Manager), Jesse Bragg (2B/3B), Harry Buckner (P/OF), Ashby Dunbar (OF), Bill Francis (3B), Jude Gans (OF/2B), Leroy Grant (1B), Nux James (2B), George "Chappie" Johnson (C/1B), Bill Pierce (1B), Ad Langford (P/OF), Johnny Pugh (SS/OF), William "Big Bill" Smith (C), Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware (P), Doc Wiley (C) and Smokey Joe Williams (P). Not all of these players were on the roster at the same time. Players came and went but Wernecke was always able to keep an extremely strong roster for the entire season. Grant Johnson was one of the first to leave. By early June of 1913 he was back playing second base for the New York Lincoln Giants.

Harry Buckner (.389) and Phil Bradley (.369) were the Mohawk Colored Giants leading hitters during the season. Frank Wickware was the ace of the pitching staff with a won-loss record of 24-5-2 (.828).



Mohawk Colored Giants (1913)

(Left to right – William Wernecke, Jesse Bragg, **Grant Johnson**, Mike Brown, William T. Smith, **Smokey Joe Williams**, Leroy Grant, Jude Gans, Phil Bradley and Johnny Pugh)



Mohawk Colored Giants (1913)

(Front row left to right – White, Unknown, Phil Bradley, Rich Richardson, Bill Wernecke, Henry Wernecke, Nux James, Chappie Johnson and Mollett. Back row left to right – Unknown, Frank Wickware, Bill Smith, Ashby Dunbar, Harry Buckner and Johnny Pugh. On ground – bat boy Pete Fox. **Grant Johnson** is not in photo because he had already left the team.).

The Mohawk Colored Giants opened their season with a 2-0 exhibition win over Montreal of the International League and ended the season with a 1-0 win over Walter Johnson and an all-star team of Major and Minor League ball players. Over the course of the season the Mohawk Colored Giants played twelve (12) games against “white” Minor League teams. Against these professional teams the Colored Giants posted an outstanding record of 9-2-1 (.818). With Phil Bradley as the team’s manager and a roster full of star players, the Mohawk Colored Giants enjoyed a very successful season in 1913. They recorded an impressive won-loss record of 52-22-2 (.703) in their inaugural season as a professional baseball team. The success of Bill Wernecke and the Mohawk Colored Giants success was short lived because at the end of the season Wernecke took all the team’s money and went to South America. Wernecke was never heard from again.

Johnson Returns to the Lincoln Giants

The New York Lincoln Giants were founded by Jess McMahon in 1911. The team played their home games at Olympic Field which was located at Fifth Ave and 136th Street. Under the management of John Henry “Pop” Lloyd, the 1913 New York Lincoln Giants fielded one of the best starting line-ups in the history of black baseball in America. Their starting line-up included the following:

New York Lincoln Giants (1913)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Leroy Grant	OF	Andrew “Jap” Payne
2B	Grant “Home Run” Johnson	OF	Robert “Jude” Gans
SS	John Henry “Pop” Lloyd	OF	Spottswood Poles
3B	Bill Francis	OF	Blainey Hall
C	Louis Santop		
C	Doc Wiley	P	Smokey Joe Williams

Besides Smokey Joe Williams, Dick "Cannonball" Redding, Lee Wade, Smokey Edwards, Homer "Sapho" Bartlett and Jude Gans also pitched for the Lincoln Giants in 1913.

During the 1913 season Grant "Home Run" Johnson was considered the best hitter in the East. Sixteen (16) box scores have been found for Grant "Home Run" Johnson playing for the 1913 New York Lincoln Giants. His performance in these 16 games was as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1913	Lincoln Giants	16	62	12	28	3	0	0	10	1	.452	.500

The score:					
LINCOLN.					
Poles, cf	R	H	P	O	E
Gans, lf	0	1	4	0	0
Lloyd, ss	2	1	3	0	0
Johnson, 2b	0	1	1	0	0
San Top, rf	2	3	1	3	0
Wiley, c	0	1	2	0	0
Williams, p	1	1	5	0	0
Grant, 1b	1	1	0	6	0
Frances, 3b	1	1	11	1	0
Totals	8	10	27	10	0
AMERICANS.					
Petway, c	R	H	P	O	E
Hill, cf	0	1	7	1	0
Barber, rf	0	2	1	0	1
Pierce, 1b	0	0	2	0	0
Taylor, 3b	0	0	10	1	2
Monroe, 2b	0	0	1	2	0
Duncan, lf	0	1	6	1	1
Lindsey, p	0	1	0	1	0
Hutcherson, ss	0	1	0	4	0
Totals	0	6	27	14	5
Lincoln	9	0	3	0	0
American	0	0	0	0	0
Two-base Hit—Gans. Home Run—Williams. Double Play—Pierce (unassisted). Struck Out—By Williams, 5; by Lindsey, 7. Bases on Balls—Off Williams, 2; off Lindsey, 1. Time—2:00. Umpires—Goeckel and Schwartz.					

Lincoln Giants vs American Giants
Johnson Goes 3 for 4

Indianapolis Freeman
Indianapolis, IN
08-02-13

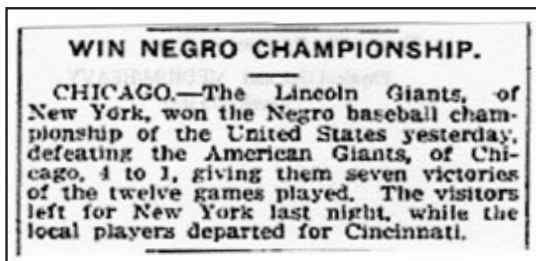
The 1913 New York Lincoln Giants had an excellent hitting line-up that included Grant "Home Run" Johnson (.452), Louis Santop (.383), John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.377), Doc Wiley (.328), Jude Gans (.306) and Spottswood Poles (.292). Smokey Joe Williams was the ace of the pitching staff. In the fourteen (14) box scores that have been found with Smokey Joe pitching for the Lincoln Giants, he went 9-2 (8.18) with a 1.87 ERA.

The New York Lincoln Giants were considered the best team in the East during the season and then went on to defeat Rube Foster and the Chicago American Giants for the "Colored World's Championship."

A twelve (12) game series was played between New York and Chicago to crown a world's champion. In game one of the series which was played at Schorling Park in Chicago, the Lincoln Giants behind three hits from Grant Johnson and shut out pitching by Smokey Joe Williams defeated Chicago by a score of 8-0. Smokey Joe Williams was the hero of the series for the Lincoln Giants. Over a 20 day period he pitched 11 games. Six of the games in this streak were pitched over a five day period. New York took the last game of the series which was played on August 13th by a score of 4-1 over the American Giants. The victory gave the New York Lincoln Giants seven wins in the twelve games (one game ended in a tie) played and the title of "Colored World's Champions."

Box and line scores have been found for ten (10) of the games played in the championship series. A summary of these games is as follows:

Game	Score	Winning Team	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	8-0	Lincoln Giants	Smokey Joe Williams	Bill Lindsay
2.	3-1	Lincoln Giants	Lee Wade	Bill Gatewood
3	9-5	Chicago American Giants	Bill Gatewood	Smokey Joe Williams
4	2-1	Chicago American Giants	Bill Lindsay	Lee Wade
5	7-6	Chicago American Giants	Sam Crawford	Smokey Joe Williams
6	11-6	Lincoln Giants	Smokey Joe Williams	Bill Gatewood
7	14-2	Lincoln Giants	Jude Gans	Bombo Pedroso
8	3-2	Lincoln Giants	Smokey Joe Williams	Sam Crawford
9	3-0	Chicago American Giants	John Taylor	Smokey Joe Williams
10	4-1	Lincoln Giants	Smokey Joe Williams	-



Indianapolis Freeman

08-23-13

After the regular season the New York Lincoln Giants played a series against the Major League All Stars who featured the pitching of Grover Cleveland Alexander. Game one of the series featured Smokey Joe Williams facing off against Grover Alexander. Williams struck out nine (9) of the Major Leaguers as the Lincoln Giants routed their Major League opponents by a score of 9-2. Scores for games two and three of the series have not currently been found. Spottswood Poles (10 for 15 - .667), Doc Wiley (5 for 13 - .385) and Smokey Joe Williams (4 for 13 - .308) led the team in hitting. Grant Johnson went 3 for 13 for a .231 batting average against the Major Leaguers.

The Lincoln Giants also played the Hal Chase All Stars in the 1913 post season. With Smokey Joe Williams on the mound for the Lincoln Giants, they dominated their Major League opponents. Smokey Joe limited the Major Leaguers to four hits and struck out nine on his way to pitching a 6-0 shutout.

Before the start of the 1914 season, Jess McMahon lost control of his team to Jim Keenan. Jess McMahon formed a new team that he named the Lincoln Stars and Jim Keenan continued to operate the Lincoln Giants. The 1914 Lincoln Giants were managed by Dick Wallace and played their home games at Olympic Field.

Wallace had a very good hitting team in 1914. The New York Lincoln Giants had a team batting average of .308 in games against top level competition in 1914. Spottswood Poles (.410), Louis Santop (.385), Doc Wiley (.360), Blainey Hall (.313), Leroy Grant (.295) and Dick Wallace (.294) led the Lincoln Giants in hitting for the 1914. Grant "Home Run" Johnson who was almost 42 years of age played second base for the New York Lincoln Giants in 1914. In the seven (7) box scores that have been found for Johnson playing for the Lincoln Giants he went 12 for 33 for a .444 batting average and a .531 slugging average.

The pitching staff for the 1914 Lincoln Giants included Dick "Cannonball" Redding, Bill Gatewood, Smokey Joe Williams, Doc Sykes, Walter Ball, B. Brown and Gun Boat Thompson. Smokey Joe Williams was the ace of the pitching staff with a 2.36 ERA and pitched effectively all season. Unfortunately, the rest of the pitching staff did not live up to their capabilities. In games against top level competition, the New York Lincoln Giants had a team 4.18 ERA during the 1914 season.

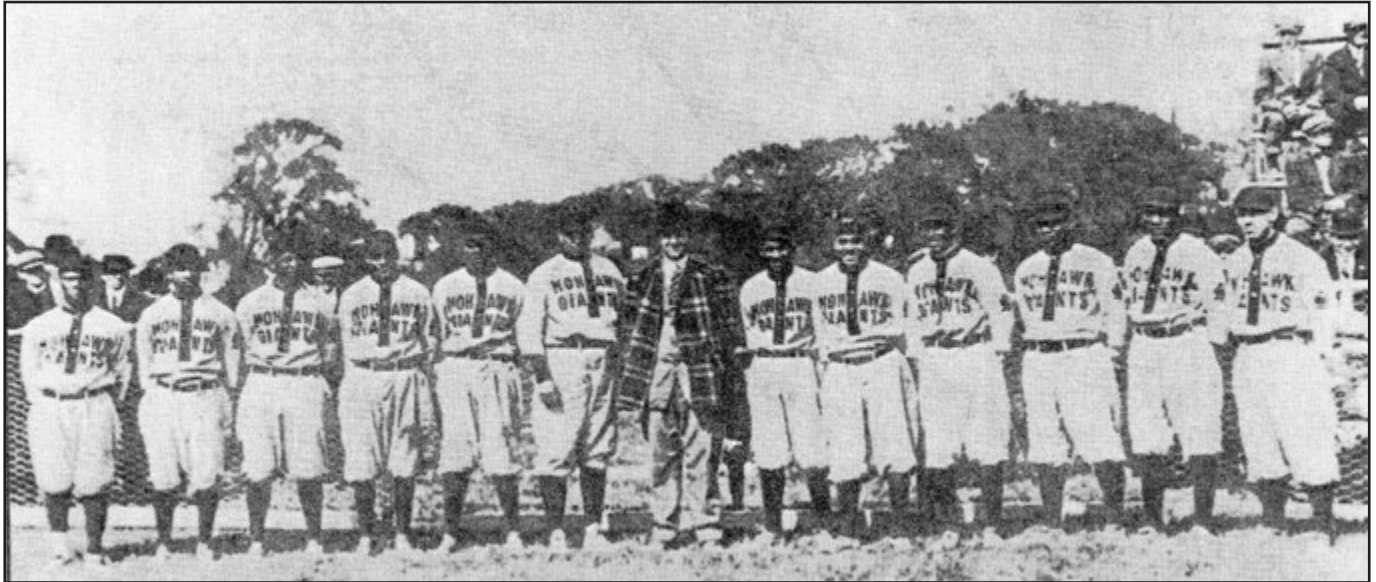
At the end of the 1914 season the New York Lincoln Giants were considered the second best team in the East.

In post season play the New York Lincoln Giants lost 7-5 to Newark of the International League. Three days later they faced the Walter Johnson All Stars. The Walter Johnson All Stars were actually a baseball club from a local fire department with Walter Johnson pitching. Gun Boat Thompson beat Walter Johnson to give the New York Lincoln Giants a win over one of the best pitchers in the history of Major League baseball. The Lincoln Giants next took on the Philadelphia Phillies. Smokey Joe Williams beat the Major Leaguers by a score of 10-4. Then on October 18th Smokey Joe faced off against Hall of Fame pitcher Rube Marquard and a team made up mostly of New York Giants players. The game ended in a 1-1 tie.

Johnson Briefly Returns to the Mohawk Colored Giants

After a shortened 1914 season that ended on July 5th, the owners of the Mohawk Colored Giants decided to give it another try for the 1915 baseball season. The Colored Giants had a very good record of 16-3 (.842) when they disbanded in 1914 and team management felt that there may be an opportunity to build on the success of the 1913 and 1914 squads.

Phil Bradley (C/Manager) who was a native of Schenectady convinced Pop Andrews (P), Mike Brown (1B), Grant “Home Run” Johnson (SS) and Johnny Pugh (3B) to come north and join the Mohawk Colored Giants. It is important to note that Grant and the other players who came north with him were not convinced that playing for the Mohawk Colored Giants would be a job that would last all season. There is a distinct possibility that they only came up for a couple of weekends to earn some additional money before they started playing for another team for the upcoming season.



Mohawk Colored Giants

Playing out of Mohawk Park the team opened its season on May 1st with a 9-5 win over an industrial league team representing General Electric. The next weekend they took two games from the Troy All-Pros by the scores of 3-2 and 10-7. Then it appears that the team folded about mid-May. The attempted revitalization of the Mohawk Colored Giants ended in a three game season with the Colored Giants winning all three of their games.

According to Negro League researcher James Riley, Grant Johnson also played briefly for the New York Lincoln Stars during the 1916 season. Currently we have not found any primary source documentation that supports Grant Johnson playing for the 1916 New York Lincoln Stars.

Grant Johnson Joins the Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo

In 1916 Grant “Dad” Johnson joined the Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo as a player/manager. Records indicate that he played and managed the team until 1921. Joining the Colored Stars was an easy choice for Grant because he had been making his home in Buffalo for several years. The Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo were considered a lower level team during their career. Records for the Colored Stars are not available for the 1916 season. Grant Johnson managed the Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo from 1916 through 1921 when the team apparently folded.

An Attempt to Form a “Negro Baseball League” Fails

In January of 1917 Grant Johnson joined a distinguished group of ball players from Ohio that included Sol White, Charles Grant and Chappie Johnson in an attempt to form a “Negro Baseball League.” The group was led by Dayton businessman John Potter. Unfortunately, nothing ever came of their efforts and Grant Johnson was back managing the Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo for the 1917 regular baseball season.

Johnson Joins the Bacharach Giants for Spring Training

Before the start of the 1920 baseball season, the Atlantic City Bacharach Giants held spring training in Jacksonville, Florida. Grant Johnson was asked to join the team because the Bacharach Giants were having contract negotiation problems with Dick Lundy who was their star shortstop. Documentation of this can be found in a newspaper article that appeared in the New York Age on April 17, 1920. The newspaper article relates how Grant brought a number of his team members to a church service at the 2nd Baptist Church in Jacksonville. According to an article that appeared in the New York Age on May 8, 1920, Johnson was said to have performed like a 45 year old ball player well beyond his prime. When Dick Lundy returned to the Bacharach Giants, Johnson returned to Buffalo.

In 1922 Grant Johnson managed and played second base for the Buffalo Stars. In a three game series that the Buffalo Stars played against the Cleveland Tate Stars of the Negro National League, Johnson had an excellent series at the plate. Grant went 4 for 11 with two doubles and a walk. He also had eight put outs and six assists. Unfortunately for Buffalo, Cleveland won all three games by the scores of 14-3, 6-0 and 5-1.

In 1923 Grant Johnson managed the Buffalo Giants. As the player/manager for Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo, Buffalo Stars and Buffalo Giants, Grant Johnson was an excellent role model for young players and reportedly was an outstanding instructor.

He is reported to have continued playing and managing until 1932 when he was 58 years old. Details of the last years of his baseball career have not yet been uncovered.

Cuban Baseball Career

Grant "Home Run" Johnson first went to Cuba to play baseball in 1903 when he was a member of the Cuban X-Giants. From 1903 to 1912 Johnson regularly went to Cuba to play winter baseball in the American Series or in the Cuban Winter League.

After defeating the Philadelphia Giants to win the "Colored World's Championship" in September of 1903, E.B. Lamar, Jr. took his Cuban X-Giants team to Cuba in November to play the top Cuban baseball teams in what became known as the American Series. The American Series was an exhibition series that pitted top "black" and "white" teams from the United States against the best teams on the island. The Cuban X-Giants were very familiar with baseball in Cuba because they had traveled there in February of 1900 and went 12-3 (.800) against the best teams on the island. The 1903 American Series in Cuba started on December 1st and ended on December 21st. Cuban teams that the X-Giants played during their exhibition tour were Columbia, Criollo, Clio, Nuevo Azul and San Francisco.

The players that went to Cuba with the X-Giants in 1903 were Ray Wilson (1B), Charles Grant (2B), Grant Johnson (SS), John Hill (3B), Clarence Williams (C), Pete Hill (OF), George Wilson (OF) and Robert Jordan (OF). Lamar's pitching staff for the American Series were Andrew "Rube" Foster, Dan McClellan and Ed Wilson.

The Cuban X-Giants arrived in Cuba in late November. Game one of the series was played on December 1st against Colombia. The X-Giants came out on the losing end of a 10 inning game. The final score was Colombia six (6) and the X-Giants (3). Game ten which was the final game of the series was played against Criollo on December 21st and ended in a 2-2 tie. The series was disastrous for the Cuban X-Giants. They were supposedly the "Colored World's Champions" and they were utterly humiliated by their Cuban opponents. The X-Giants went 2-7-1 (.222) for their 1903 tour to Cuba. Their biggest problem was the team's hitting. They posted a team batting

average of .130 (40 for 307) for their games in Cuba. Only one player, first baseman Ray Wilson, hit over .200 and he went 7 for 29 for a .241 batting average. Grant "Home Run" Johnson hit the team's only homerun, but he also only went 5 for 33 for a .151 batting average.

Even though their 1903 tour of Cuba did not end well, the Cuban X-Giants returned to Cuba in early October of 1904 to play in the American Series for the second straight year. The 1904 American Series that was played over the winter of 1904-05 was an epic in Cuban baseball history because five teams from the United States came to Cuba to play teams representing Habana, Azul and Carmelita. Besides the Cuban X-Giants, four "white" teams (All-Americans, All-Nationals, Lynn and Tampa) traveled to Cuba. Of the five teams that came to Cuba to play during the winter of 1904-05, only the X-Giants had a winning record against their Cuban opponents.

The Cuban X-Giants played nine games and redeemed themselves with a won-loss record of 6-3 (.667). Game one of the series was played on October 13th. In an 8 to 1 win over Azul, Grant Johnson went 1 for 3 and Harry Buckner picked up the win. The X-Giants last game in Cuba for the 1904 season was a 2-1 loss to Lynn (MA).

The Cuban X-Giants were led by the hitting of Dan McClellan (.294), Clarence Williams (.261) and Harry Moore (.250). Grant Johnson hit the team's only home run but only went 7 for 37 for a .189 batting average. As a team the X-Giants went 47 for 249 for a team batting average of .189. Cuban super star Luis Bustamante also played two games for the X-Giants and went 3 for 8 (.375). All three Cuban X-Giants pitchers (Harry Buckner, Emmett Bowman and Dan McClellan) picked up two wins each

By winning the 1904 American Series, the Cuban X-Giants had redeemed themselves for their poor performance from the year before.

Grant Johnson did not play in Cuba during 1905 or 1906.

Prior to the start of the 1907 Cuban League season, Grant was signed by Fe who was the reigning "league" champion. In an effort to defend his title, team manager Alberto Azoy brought in several black players to strengthen his starting line-up. In addition to Grant Johnson (SS), Azoy also signed Charles Grant (2B), Bill Monroe (OF), Pete Hill (OF) and Andrew "Rube" Foster (P) for the 1907 Cuban League season.

The 1907 Cuban professional baseball season began on January 1st and play was concluded on April 14th. Thirty (30) games were played during the season. Only three teams (Almendares, Fe and Habana) competed for the "league" title.

Grant "Home Run" Johnson was the leading hitter for Fe during the season with a .348 batting average. Other hitters who contributed for Fe at the plate during the 1907 season were Bill Monroe (.346), Regino Garcia (.324), Pete Hill (.264), Julian Castillo (.254) and Carlos Moran (.250). Andrew "Rube" Foster was the ace of the pitching staff with an impressive record of 10-5 (.667). Luis Gonzalez (5-7) and Pedro Olave (1-1) rounded out the starting rotation for Fe.

Late in the season Almendares got hot and won their final seven (7) games to take the "league" championship by one game over Fe. Almendares finished the season with a record of 17-13 (.567), Fe ended up in second place with a record of 16-14 (.533) and Habana was a distant third with a losing record of 12-18 (.400).

In October of 1907 Grant Johnson joined the Philadelphia Giants who travelled to Cuba to play in the American Series. The Philadelphia Giants took a formidable team to Cuba that besides

Johnson included John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (SS), Emmett Bowman (3B), Bruce Petway (RF/1B), Pete Hill (OF) and Clarence Williams (C/1B). William “Bill” Holland, Dan McClellan and John Davis made up the pitching staff for Philadelphia.

The 1907 American Series was divided into two rounds. Round one was played from October 10th to November 4th and the second round went from December 5th to December 30th. All the games were played at Almendares Park.

The Philadelphia Giants played thirteen (13) games during the first round of the 1907 American Series. Their opponents were Habana and Almendares. Game one of the series was played on October 10th at Almendares Park against Almendares. The Giants suffered a 6-0 shutout loss in their first game in Cuba. The last game of round one was played on November 4th against Almendares. In the final game of the first round, Grant Johnson led the way for the Giants with two hits and two runs scored. John Davis was solid on the mound and Philadelphia ended the first round of the American Series with an 8-2 win.

Bill Holland (.321), Grant Johnson (.289) and Pop Lloyd (.288) led the Philadelphia Giants in hitting during the first round of the 1907 Cuban series. Grant “Home Run” Johnson also hit the only homerun for the Philadelphia Giants during the first round of the series. Offensively the Giants batted .220 as a team and scored 52 runs in their 13 games, but unfortunately lost the close games. Bill Holland who was supposed to be the ace of the pitching staff lost all four of his starts by giving up 30 hits, 18 runs and hitting 5 batters in the 34 innings he pitched.

After the first round of the 1907 American Series Grant Johnson, Pete Hill, Bill Holland and Dan McClellan all returned to the United States. They were replaced by Nate Harris, Andrew “Jap” Payne, Bill Gatewood and Clarence Winston for the second round of the American Series which began on December 5th.

The Philadelphia Giants did not fare as well as they had planned in the first round of the 1907 American Series. They finished in third place with a record of 5-7-1 (.417). Habana (4-2-1) won the first round of the American Series and Almendares posted a record of 3-3.

Grant Johnson returned to Cuba to play for Habana in the 1908 Cuban League season. Besides being their starting shortstop he was also named team captain. The 1908 season started on January 1st and ended on March 16th. Four teams (Almendares, Fe, Habana and Matanzas) played in the “league” during the 1908 season. Johnson (2B) along with fellow black players Andrew “Rube” Foster (P), Pete Hill (OF), Bill Monroe (3B) and Clarence Winston (OF) were signed by Habana in order to strengthen their starting line-up and hopefully make a run at Almendares for the “league” title.

Habana was led by the hitting of Pete Hill (.343), Luis Bustamante (.323), Julian Castillo (.320), Bill Monroe (.319) and Grant Johnson (.310). Johnson’s complete hitting statistics for the 1908 Cuban League season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1908	Habana	42	155	45	48	2	4	1	23	17	.310	.394

Besides excellent hitting, Habana also boasted a strong pitching rotation that included Julian Perez (11-5), Luis Padron (9-2) and Andrew Foster (8-5).

In addition to great hitting and pitching Habana also excelled at running the bases and led the “league” in stolen bases with 164 steals in 45 games. Clarence Winston led the way with 33 stolen bases, Pete Hill stole 23 bases and Grant Johnson had 17 steals.

The 1908 Cuban League season was virtually a two team race between Almendares and Habana. Habana had an excellent season going 32-13 (.711), but unfortunately for them Almendares turned in one of the best seasons in the history of Cuban professional baseball. The final standings and won loss records for the 1908 Cuban League season were as follows:

Cuban League (1908)

Team	Record	Pct.	Place
Almendares	37-8	.822	1 st
Habana	32-13	.711	2 nd
Fe	11-32	.256	3 rd
Matanzas	8-35	.186	4 th

After the regular 1908 season managing and playing for the Brooklyn Royal Giants in the United States, Grant Johnson took his team to Cuba to play in the American Series. Competing against the Royal Giants in the series were Almendares and Habana.

Some of the key players that accompanied Johnson and the Royal Giants to Cuba were Pete Hill (OF), Bill Monroe (3B), Harry Buckner (P/OF) and Jude Gans (OF/P). Pete Hill (.269), Grant “Home Run” Johnson (.233), Ashby Dunbar (.233) and Bill Monroe (.232) led the team in hitting during the series. The Royal Giants were only able to compile a .204 team batting average against Cuban pitching. Harry Buckner (4-3), Jude Gans (2-2) and Charles Earle (2-3) carried the pitching load for Brooklyn against Almendares and Habana. As a team, the Brooklyn Royal Giants had a respectable 3.16 earned run average for the series.

The 1908 American Series began on October 10th at Almendares Park with Brooklyn taking on Almendares. Cuban great Jose Mendez (Almendares) struck out 12 Brooklyn Royal Giants and came away with a 3-2 victory for the islanders. The final game of the American Series was played on November 11th. Almendares ended the series like they had started it by beating the Royal Giants. Brooklyn went down by a score of 8-3. The final records for the three teams competing in the 1908 American were as follows: Almendares (5-4), Brooklyn (8-8) and Habana (3-4).

After the American Series had concluded play, the Brooklyn Royal Giants played an exhibition game on November 20th at Almendares Park against the Cincinnati Reds of the National League. Harry Buckner pitched a complete game and shut down his Major League opponent by a score of 9-1.

Johnson returned to Cuba to play second base for Habana for the 1908-09 winter league season. Also joining Grant Johnson in Cuba to play for Habana were John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (SS), Pete Hill (OF) and Charles Earle (P).

The 1908-09 Cuban League season ran from December 20, 1908 and ended on April 22, 1904. Four teams (Almendares, Fe, Habana and Matanzas) played in the Cuban League during the 1908-09 winter league season.

Habana played excellent baseball the entire season. Grant “Home Run” Johnson led the team in hitting with a .313 batting average and also led the league in hits with 46. He also was named as the captain of the team. The real key to Habana’s success during the season was their excellent pitching rotation that was made up of Rip Hagerman (15-6), Luis Padron (7-3) and Luis Gonzalez (6-3).

The race for the 1908-09 Cuban League championship was a two team race the entire season. Almendares battled back and forth with Habana. Habana won the title by finishing the season with a record of 29-13 (.690) while Almendares went 28-14 (.683) and were a mere one game back in the final league standings. Fe (12-31) ended up in third place and Matanzas (4-15) dropped out of the league on February 2, 1909 before the season was over.

The 1909 American Series was played from October 3rd to December 19th. The Detroit Tigers who were the reigning American League champions traveled to the island to play Almendares and Habana. Grant “Home Run” Johnson along with fellow black super star players Pete Hill, John Henry “Pop” Lloyd and Bruce Petway were signed by Habana to bolster their line-up for the series. The Detroit Tigers got the surprise of their lives when Habana took four of the six games the two teams played against each other. “Home Run” Johnson was the hitting star for Habana with a .412 batting average against the Tigers. Valentin “Sirique” Gonzalez picked up three victories in the four wins that Habana had over the Detroit Tigers. Almendares also beat the Tigers four out of the six games they played against Detroit.



Habana (1909)
American Series vs Detroit Tigers

(Top row left to right – Valentin “Sirique” Gonzalez, Luis “Mulo” Padron, **Tinti Molina**, Pastor Pareda, Carlos “Chino” Moran, Augustin Parpetti, Ricardo Hernandez and Octavio Ariola. Seated left to right – **John Henry “Pop” Lloyd, Pete Hill, Luis Bustamante**, Luis Gonzalez, Gonzalo Sanchez, **Bruce Petway and Grant “Home Run” Johnson.**)

Leland Giants Travel to Cuba

During the 1910 regular baseball season the Chicago Leland Giants dominated all of their competition in the United States. Newspaper accounts credit the Leland Giants with a record of 123-6 (.953) for their 1910 season. After the regular season Andrew “Rube” Foster took his team to Cuba to play in the 1910 American Series against Almendares and Habana.

Game one of the series was played on October 9th at Almendares Park. The Leland Giants beat Habana in their opener by a score of 5-4. The last game of the 14 game schedule was played on November 7th and this time the win went to Almendares by a score of 5-4. During the American Series the Chicago Leland Giants were led by the hitting of John Henry “Pop” Lloyd (.390) and Andrew “Jap” Payne (.288).

LELAND GIANTS WIN AT HAVANA.

HAVANA, Cuba, Oct. 9.—The Leland Giants played the opening game of a series of sixteen here today, defeating Havana by the score of 5 to 4 in a featureless contest before a crowd of 8,000. Both pitchers were wild, but the Giants played an uphill battle successfully and won on their hitting and base running. The score:

	R.H.E.
Leland Giants	0 0 0 1 0 1 0 3 0—5 7 1
Havana	0 0 0 3 0 1 0 0 0—4 5 4

Batteries—Lindsay and Petway, Pareda and Garcia.

Indianapolis Freeman
10-22-10

Grant Johnson who played second base and shortstop for Leland’s had a disastrous series. He went 8 for 51 for a pitiful batting average of .157. As a team the Leland Giants had a team batting average of .225. Rube Foster (3-1) and Frank “The Red Ant” Wickware led the pitching staff. Charles Dougherty (1-2) and Bill Lindsay (1-2) were far less successful. The positive side of the team’s offensive production was out scoring their Cuban opponents by 51 runs to 41 runs. The fielding of the Chicago Leland Giants was a different matter altogether. They committed 32 errors in just 14 games for a .946 fielding percentage.

The final team won-loss records for the 1910 American Series were Almendares (6-2-1), Chicago Leland Giants (7-6-1) and Habana (0-5).



Habana (1911)
(Grant Johnson - # 5)

In December of 1910 Grant “Home Run” Johnson returned to Cuba to play for and captain Habana for the 1910-11 Cuban League season. The winter league season of 1910-11 started on Christmas Day December 25, 1910 and the season ended on April 2, 1911. Each team played a 27 game schedule during the season. Only three teams (Almendares, Fe and Habana) competed in the 1910-11 Cuban League season.

Habana fielded a strong team that was led by the hitting of Pete Hill (.365), Carlos Moran Luis Padron (.258) and Grant “Home Run” Johnson (.245). Black stars John Henry “Pop” Lloyd and Bruce Petway also played for Habana. Luis Gonzalez was the ace of the pitching staff with a record of 8-2 (.800). Jesus Mederos (5-5) and Pastor Pareda (3-1) rounded out the starting rotation for Habana.

The 1910-11 season was a two team race the entire season between Almendares and Habana. The final won-loss records for the season were Almendares (21-6), Habana (18-9) and Fe (2-26). Almendares took the title for the fifth time in seven years. Almendares was led by the pitching of Jose Mendez (11-2) and the 1910-11 Almendares squad included fourteen (14) players who would later be inducted into the Cuban Baseball Hall of Fame.

Johnson Leads Habana to the Cuban Championship

The 1912 Cuban League season was Grant Johnson’s last in Cuba. The 1912 season started on January 14th and ended on April 29th. Teams representing Almendares, Fe and Habana competed for the title. Each team played 34 games during the season.

Habana started the season strong by winning their first seven games and were never really challenged for the championship. Grant “Home Run” Johnson led the team in hitting with a .410 batting average and also led the “league” in hits with 43. His complete statistics for the 1912 season were as follows:

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1912	Habana	30	105	20	43	3	1	1	28	5	.410	.486

John Henry "Pop" Lloyd (.388), Carlos Moran (.336) and Pete Hill (.284) also had a good season at the plate for Habana. Smokey Joe Williams (10-7), Jose Junco (6-1) and Pastor Pareda (3-2) led Habana in pitching.

The final standings for the 1912 Cuban League season were as follows:

Cuban League (1912)

Team	Record	Pct.	Place	Games Behind
Habana	22-12	.647	1 st	-
Almendares	17-17	.500	2 nd	5
Fe	14-24	.368	3 rd	10

Passing of a Legend

After his baseball career with high level teams, Grant Johnson worked for the New York Central Railroad Company. He did, however, remain active in baseball in and around the Buffalo (NY) area. It has been reported that Grant Johnson remained active playing and managing with lower level ball clubs primarily in the Buffalo area until he was 58 years old.

Grant "Home Run" Johnson passed away on September 04, 1963 in Buffalo (Erie County), New York. Grant died of a heart failure after surgery. He was 88 years old. Before his death Johnson had become totally blind and had entered the Erie Home of the Blind in Erie, New York. Services for the baseball great were held at Williams Funeral Home in Buffalo, New York. Grant Johnson was laid to rest in Lakeside Cemetery in Hamburg, New York.

Grant Johnson Taken By Death

Grant (Homerun) Johnson, 88, a former Findlay resident, died of a heart failure after surgery Wednesday in Buffalo, N.Y.

As a youth, Mr. Johnson became interested in baseball and formed a club here known as the Page Fence Giants. He played for a number of ball clubs after leaving Findlay. Just before retiring, he played with the Havana, Cuba, Giants.

Mr. Johnson was a former choir member of the AME Church and was known in the city and county for his musical ability. He was a member of the Bethel Baptist Church in Buffalo, N.Y.

A few years ago, he became totally blind and entered the Erie Home of the Blind in Erie, a suburb of Buffalo, N.Y.

He is survived by a niece, Mrs. Edgar Glasco, 803 W. Main Cross St.

Born Sept. 21, 1874 in Findlay, he was the son of Charles and Elizabeth (Warner) Johnson.



Services will be held Saturday afternoon in the Williams Funeral Home, Buffalo, N.Y.

Grant Johnson
Obituary

Grant "Home Run" Johnson

1872 - 1963

Negro League Baseball Pioneer: A right handed power hitting shortstop, he hit 60 home runs for the 1894 Findlay Sluggers. He played for, captained and managed seven Negro League championship teams from 1895-1914, then did the same for various Buffalo baseball clubs from 1915-1933.

Grant "Home Run" Johnson
Bats: Right
Throws: Right
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 170 lbs.
Batting Average: .336
Hometown: Findlay, Ohio

Mr. Johnson's grave memorial is located 100 ft directly behind this plaque. This memorial made possible by Lakeside Cemetery and the Benefactors of the Forest Lawn Heritage Foundation.

Grant Johnson
Gravestone

Assessing Home Run Grant's Career

- Grant "Home Run" Johnson was an **outstanding hitter**. All Negro League baseball researchers agree that Grant Johnson was an excellent hitter. The chart below presents the research of several leading Negro League baseball researchers.

	Larry Lester and Dick Clark	Center for Negro League Baseball Research	Gary Ashwill (Seamheads)	Baseball Reference	John Holway
Games	348	366	394	215	-
At Bats	1611	1616	1471	766	335
Hits	463	528	457	223	106
Batting Average	.287	.327	.311	.291	.316
Slugging Pct.	.395	.465	.396	.350	-

Grant "Home Run" Johnson was one of the best hitters of the early days of black professional baseball.

- There is a significant problem of **missing statistics** especially those when Johnson was in his twenties and was most likely playing at the top of his game. From 1893 to 1914 when he was playing at the highest level of black baseball he most likely played at least 2,500 games. This is very conservative especially when you take into consideration all of the games he played in Cuba. Currently we have located only 569 box scores with Grant Johnson in the line-up. Of this total 224 games are from Cuba. His games in Cuba represent 39% of the total games found. In addition we are missing all of his games that he played in Florida during the winter and virtually all of his games from 1915 to 1923 when he played for lower level teams.
- Defensively, Grant Johnson was known as an **outstanding fielding shortstop**. Early in his career as a shortstop, he teamed with Charlie Grant at second base to form the best middle infield in black baseball. He also had the versatility as he got older to transition to second base. With Grant at second and John Henry "Pop" Lloyd at shortstop, they were regarded as the best middle infield in black baseball.
- He was a **winner** and brought a winning tradition to teams for whom he played. Over the course of his professional baseball career, Grant Johnson played on at least twenty-six (26) championship teams.

Colored Championship Teams

Year	Team	Title
1894	Cuban Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1895	Page Fence Giants	Colored World's Champions
1896	Page Fence Giants	Colored World's Champions
1897	Page Fence Giants	Colored World's Champions
1898	Page Fence Giants	Colored World's Champions
1899	Chicago Columbia Giants	Western Colored Champions
1900	Chicago Unions	Colored Champions of the West
1901	Chicago Columbia Giants	Colored Champions of the West
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Colored World's Champions
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Tri-State League Champion
1904	Cuban X-Giants	American Series Champion
1905	Philadelphia Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1905	Philadelphia Giants	Colored World's Champions

Year	Team	Title
1907	Royal Poinciana	Florida Hotel League Champion
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States Champion
1908-09	Habana Leones	Cuban League Champions
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	International League Champion
1909	Habana Leones	American Series Co-Champions
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1910	Chicago Leland Giants	Colored Champions of the West
1910	Chicago Leland Giants	Colored World's Champions
1912	Habana Leones	Cuban League Champions
1913	New York Lincoln Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1913	New York Lincoln Giants	Colored World's Champions

- It is also very important to take into consideration the **longevity of his career**. Grant started playing professional baseball in 1893 when he was only 19 years old and continued to play at a very high level until 1914 when he was 40 years old. He played at least 21 seasons at the highest level of baseball that was open to black players during his day. In addition he is reported to still be playing baseball with lower level teams until he was 58 years old.
- Grant Johnson was a **leader** both on and off the field. From the very beginning of his career to the end, Johnson served in a leadership role with a majority of the teams with which he was associated.
 1. In 1895 he and Bud Fowler formed the Page Fence Giants. Fowler was the manager of the team and Grant Johnson was the captain/starting short stop.
 2. Over the years he was the on-field captain of many of the teams for which he played. Grant Johnson also managed numerous teams both in the early and later years of his career.
 3. Played a major role on at least 26 championship teams during his career.
- Grant Johnson also had a very **successful career as a manager**. Records for the vast majority of games that he managed have still not been uncovered. Currently we have documented two hundred and nine games that he managed. In these games he posted a won-loss record of 110-95-4 (.537). In addition he is credited with having won at least seven (7) championships for teams that he managed.

Managerial Championships

Year	Team	Championship
1899	Chicago Columbia Giants	Western Colored Champions
1900	Chicago Unions	Colored Champions of the West
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Professional Clubs
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Professional Clubs
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored World's Champions

- Both on and off the field Grant “Home Run” Johnson always had the **respect** of his fellow team mates, club management, opposing players, the fans and the media.
- In short, Grant Johnson was an integral part of the early years of black baseball in America. He was **one of the game's first super stars** and a **true pioneer** before there even was a Negro League.

Playing Career

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1893-1894	Findlay Sluggers	Independent
1894	Cuban Giants	Independent
1894	Dubuque (IA)	Independent
1895-1898	Page Fence Giants	Independent
1899	Findlay (OH)	Independent
1899	Chicago Columbia Giants	Independent
1900	Chicago Unions	Independent
1901-1902	Chicago Columbia Giants	Independent
1903-1904	Cuban X-Giants	Independent
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Tri-State League
1905	Philadelphia Giants	Independent
1906-1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent
1907-1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	International League
1910	Chicago Leland Giants	Independent
1911	Philadelphia Giants	Independent
1911	Chicago Giants	Independent
1912	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent
1912-1913	New York Lincoln Giants	Independent
1913	Mohawk Colored Giants	Independent
1914	New York Lincoln Giants	Independent
1915	Mohawk Colored Giants	Independent
1916-1917	Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo	Independent
1919-1920	Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo	Independent
1920	Atlantic City Bacharach Giants	Spring Training (Jacksonville, FL)
1921	Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo	Independent
1922	Buffalo Stars	Independent
1923	Buffalo Giants	Independent

LELAND GIANTS CHALLENGES ANY BALL CLUB IN WORLD.

Rube Foster's Leland Giants challenges any ball club in the world for a series of games to decide the championship, for a side bet of \$500 to \$3,000, or for 75 per cent to winner and 25 per cent to loser, or for all the gate receipts. The Lelands will play on the above terms any place in the United States. I offer this inducement to all the so-called champions: I want the public to be convinced as to who is really the champion. I will deposit \$500 with THE FREEMAN any time the challenge is accepted. That we will live up to our agreement, I want the readers of THE FREEMAN to be convinced once and for all that all the clubs that are advertising how great they are, are only looking for advertising and are afraid to play us. We are open to play any place or any club. Now watch them all crawl in their hole. If our challenge is not accepted this year, we will claim the undisputed right to championship of the world.

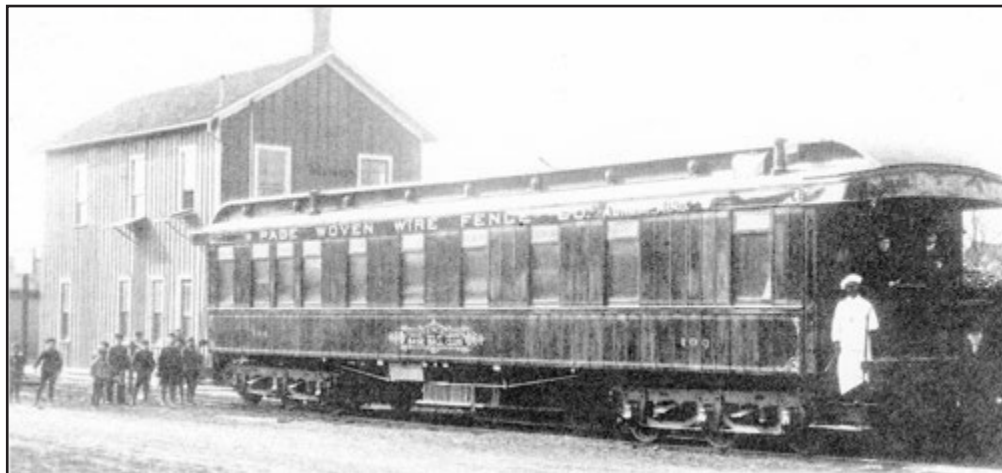
ANDREW (RUBE) FOSTER, Manager Leland Giants.

Indianapolis Freeman

05-21-10

Winter Leagues and Post Season Play:

1893	Findlay Sluggers	Game vs Cincinnati Reds (NL)
1894	Findlay Sluggers	Game vs Cincinnati Reds (NL)
1894	Findlay Sluggers	Two Games vs Detroit Tigers (Western League)
1894	Findlay Sluggers	Game vs Brooklyn Bridegrooms (NL)
1895	Page Fence Giants	Two Games vs Cincinnati Reds (NL)
1899	Chicago Columbia Giants	Championship Series vs Chicago Unions
1899	Chicago Columbia Giants	Championship Series vs Cuban X-Giants
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Championship Series vs Philadelphia Giants
1903	Cuban X-Giants	American Series (Cuba)
1904	Royal Poinciana	Florida Hotel League
1904	Cuban X-Giants	Championship Series vs Philadelphia Giants
1904	Cuban X-Giants	American Series (Cuba)
1905	Philadelphia Giants	Championship Series vs Brooklyn Royal Giants
1906	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Two Games vs Philadelphia Athletics
1907	Fe	Cuban Winter League
1907	Royal Poinciana	Florida Hotel League
1907	Royal Poinciana-Breakers Hotel Team	Series vs Palm Beach-Miami
1907	Philadelphia Giants	American Series (Cuba)
1908	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	American Series (Cuba)
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Game vs Cincinnati Reds (Cuba)
1908-09	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1909	Habana Leones	American Series vs Detroit Tigers
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Game vs New York Americans
1910	Chicago Leland Giants	American Series (Cuba)
1910	Chicago Leland Giants	Double header vs Trenton (Tri-State League)
1910	Leland Giants	Series vs Philadelphia Athletics
1910-11	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1912	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Game vs New York Highlanders
1912	Habana Leones	Cuban Winter League
1913	Mohawk Colored Giants	Exhibition Games vs Montreal (IL)
1913	New York Lincoln Giants	Game vs Philadelphia Phillies (NL)
1913	New York Lincoln Giants	Series vs Major League All Stars
1913	New York Lincoln Giants	Game vs Hal Chase's All Stars



Page Fence Giants – Private Railroad Car

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Semi-Professional)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1893	Findlay	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
1894	Findlay	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Regular Season – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1894	Cuban Giants	20	90	34	32	5	4	2	21	7	.356	.567
1895	Page Fence	3	12	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	.167	.250
1897	Page Fence	1	6	1	2	0	0	1	3	0	.333	.833
1898	Page Fence	2	8	5	4	3	0	0	4	1	.500	.875
1899	Columbia	21	92	23	38	4	1	5	24	0	.413	.641
1900	Chicago Unions	8	35	9	12	2	1	1	7	1	.343	.543
1901	Columbia	1	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	.500	.600
1902	Columbia	5	21	6	4	0	1	0	3	0	.190	.286
1903	Cuban X-Giants	28	130	21	35	2	4	1	19	1	.269	.369
1904	Cuban X-Giants	8	31	8	12	2	0	1	7	2	.387	.472
1905	Philadelphia	87	413	90	114	17	2	10	78	22	.276	.400
1906	Brooklyn	21	86	20	32	10	2	3	21	1	.372	.449
1907	Brooklyn	21	78	9	22	2	3	0	5	0	.282	.341
1908	Brooklyn	23	93	15	29	6	1	0	19	0	.312	.354
1909	Brooklyn	11	48	7	12	0	1	0	8	0	.250	.292
1910	Lelands	37	147	35	55	21	0	2	14	0	.374	.558
1911	Philadelphia	17	75	12	28	6	1	0	14	0	.373	.480
	Chicago											
1912	Brooklyn	7	31	4	11	1	0	0	7	2	.355	.387
1913	Lincoln Giants	16	62	12	28	3	0	0	10	1	.452	.500
1914	Lincoln Giants	7	27	7	12	2	0	0	5	2	.444	.519
1922	Buffalo	3	11	-	4	2	0	0	-	-	.364	.727
Total		347	1500	322	490	90	21	25	269	41	.327	.465

Career Statistics – Hitting (Championship Series – Negro Leagues)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1899	Columbia	2	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
1903	Cuban X-Giants	7	25	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	.240	-
1904	Cuban X-Giants	3	12	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	.333	-
1905	Philadelphia	2	8	-	4	2	-	-	-	2	.500	-
1913	New York	5	20	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	.300	-
Total		19	67	4	21	2	-	2	-	2	.313	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (Exhibition Games vs Major League Competition)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1895	Page Fence	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	.125	-
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	4	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	.500	-
1910	Lelands	-	24	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	.458	-
	Habana											
1912	Brooklyn	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	.500	-
1913	Lincoln Giants	-	13	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	.231	-
Total		-	53	1	19	-	-	-	-	-	.358	-

Career Statistics – Hitting (American Series - Cuba)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1903	Cuban X-Giants	9	33	7	5	0	0	1	-	-	.152	.242
1904	Cuban X-Giants	8	37	5	7	0	0	1	4	2	.189	.270
1907	Philadelphia	11	38	5	11	1	0	1	-	4	.289	.395
1908	Brooklyn	16	60	8	14	0	1	0	-	1	.233	.267
1909	Habana	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.412	-
1910	Leland Giants	14	51	10	8	0	0	0	-	1	.157	.157
	Total	58	219	35	45	1	1	3	4	8	.210	.260

Career Statistics - Hitting (Cuban Winter League)

Year	Team	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
1907	Fe	13	46	7	16	1	0	0	7	0	.348	.370
1908	Habana	42	155	45	48	2	4	1	23	17	.310	.394
1908-09	Habana	42	147	33	46	5	2	2	-	-	.313	.415
1910	Habana	11	32	5	12	2	0	0	2	1	.375	.512
1910-11	Habana	28	94	11	23	0	0	1	-	-	.245	.277
1912	Habana	30	105	20	43	3	1	1	28	5	.410	.486
	Total	166	579	121	188	13	7	5	60	23	.325	.397

Career Hitting Statistics (Totals)

	Games	AB	Runs	Hits	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA	SLG
Findlay	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-	-	-	-
Negro League	347	1500	322	490	90	21	27	269	41	.327	.465
Championship Series	19	67	4	21	2	-	2	-	2	.313	-
Major League Exhibition	-	53	1	19	-	-	-	-	-	.358	-
Cuba - American Series	58	219	35	45	1	1	3	4	8	.210	.260
Cuba – Winter Season	166	579	121	188	13	7	5	60	23	.325	.397
Total	590	2418	483	763	106	29	99	333	74	.316	.506

Hitting and League Leader Titles

Category	Year	League	Number
Hits	1908-09	Cuban Winter League	46
	1912	Cuban Winter League	43

Career Statistics – Pitching (Regular Season)

Year	Team	Games	Innings	Shut Outs	Won	Lost	Hits	Runs	BB	S0	ERA
1905	Philadelphia	4	36.0	2	4	0	-	2	-	-	0.50
1910	Lelands	2	15.7	-	2	0	9	3	3	1	1.72
	Total	6	51.7	2	6	0	9	5	3	1	0.87

Managerial Record

Regular Season:

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Tie	Pct.
1899	Chicago Columbia Giants	Independent	3	1	0	.750
1900	Chicago Unions	Independent	5	1	1	.833
1901	Chicago Columbia Giants	Independent	2	0	0	1.000
1902	Chicago Columbia Giants	Independent	1	2	0	.333
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Independent	5	2	0	.714
1904	Cuban X-Giants	Independent	6	5	0	.545
1906	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	11	11	1	.500
1906	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Exhibition	2	0	0	1.000
1907	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	10	14	1	.417
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	-	-	-	-
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	NACPC	19	10	1	.655
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	-	-	-	-
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	NACPC	9	3	0	.750
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Exhibition	1	0	9	1.000
1911	Philadelphia Giants	Independent	6	16	0	.273
1912	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Independent	9	15	0	.375
1923	Buffalo Giants	Independent	-	-	-	-
Total			89	80	4	.527

Cuba:

Year	Team	League	Won	Lost	Pct.	Place
1904	Cuban X-Giants	American Series (Cuba)	6	2	.750	1 st
1906	Cuban X-Giants	American Series (Cuba)	6	5	.545	2 nd
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	American Series (Cuba)	8	8	.500	2 nd
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Game vs Cincinnati Reds	1	0	1.000	-
Total			21	15	.583	-

Managerial Championships

Year	Team	Championship
1899	Chicago Columbia Giants	Western Colored Champions
1900	Chicago Unions	Colored Champions of the West
1903	Cuban X-Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Professional Clubs
1908	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored Champions of the East
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	National Association of Colored Professional Clubs
1909	Brooklyn Royal Giants	Colored World's Champions

Notes:

1. Early in his career Grant Johnson played for and was the captain of the Page Fence Giants.
2. The won-loss records presented here are in no way to be considered anywhere close to complete.
3. In 1900 both Grant Johnson and Bill Peters managed the Chicago Unions in 1900.
4. Both Grant Johnson and E.B. Lamar managed the Cuban X-Giants in 1903 and 1904.
The 1903 Cuban X-Giants were considered the best team in the East during the season.
5. NACPC stands for National Association of Colored Professional Clubs.
6. Late in his career, Grant "Homerun" Johnson also managed the Pittsburgh Colored Stars of Buffalo.

Selected Career Highlights

- Reportedly hit 60 homeruns in one season while playing for the Findlay Sluggers.
- In his first year of professional baseball in 1894 he batted .356 with a .567 slugging percentage while playing for the Cuban Giants.
- Along with Bud Fowler he helped form the world famous Page Fence Giants in 1895. “Home Run” Johnson was named the captain of the team.
- During his career he was a member of at least twenty-six (26) championship teams.
- Johnson played on and was an integral part of four (4) of the greatest teams in the history of black baseball in America. These teams were the 1903 Cuban X-Giants, 1905 Philadelphia Giants, 1910 Chicago Leland Giants and the 1913 New York Lincoln Giants.
- Grant “Home Run” Johnson compiled a career batting average of .327 with a .465 slugging percentage against top level black teams. He also had a .316 career batting average with a .506 slugging percentage against all levels of competition.
- He went 19 for 53 against Major League competition for a .358 batting average. In ten (10) games against the Philadelphia Athletics, Grant Johnson compiled a .429 batting average. Seven of these ten games were against the pitching of Chief Bender and Eddie Plank.
- Batted .412 while playing for Habana against the Detroit Tigers in the 1909 American Series in Cuba.
- As a manager, Grant “Dad” Johnson led several different teams to at least seven (7) championships.
- In conclusion, Grant “Home Run” Johnson is considered one of the greatest players of the “Dead Ball Era” in black baseball.

Pete Hill and Grant Johnson
Philadelphia Giants

Philadelphia Inquirer
04-23-05



1896



GEO. H. TAYLOR, 1 b. GEO. WILSON, p. and 1. f. GRANT JOHNSON, s. s. JOE MILLER, p. and r. f.
 "BILLY" HOLLAND, p. and l. f. A. S. PARSONS, Mgr. PETE BURNS, c.
 FRED VAN DYKE, c. f. WM. BINGA, 3 b. CHAS. GRANT, 2 b. VASCO GRAHAM, c. and f.
 (OVER.)

Page Fence Giants (1896)

(Grant "Home Run" Johnson – back row second from right)