

# **Early Pioneers of the Negro Leagues:**

**Frank C. Leland**



**by**

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### Leland Giants (1909)

Frank C. Leland was the President and General Manager of the 1909 Leland Giants. Rube Foster was the team's traveling manager and one of the team's starting pitchers. The Leland Giants were one of the top black baseball teams in the country and also won the prestigious Chicago City League title. The Leland Giants had a won-loss record of 54-18-1 (.750) in independent play and went 31-9 (.775) in the Chicago City League.



### Leland Giants (1909)

(Standing left to right – **Pete Hill**, Andrew “Jap” Payne, George Wright, Walter Ball, Charles “Pat” Dougherty, Bill Gatewood and **Andrew “Rube” Foster**. Seated left to right – Dangerfield Talbert, Harry “Mike” Moore, **Frank C. Leland**, Bobby Winston, Sam Strothers and Nate Harris)

Frank C. Leland was born in February of 1869 in Memphis, Tennessee. Different years of birth for Frank Leland have been presented by different researchers. Our research has gone with the year of birth listed on his death certificate which is 1869. Leland was one of the early pioneers of black baseball in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

He started his career as an outfielder but quickly came to the realization that his real talent was in organizing and managing baseball teams. Over his career he is credited to forming or helping form the Chicago Unions, Chicago Unions Giants, Leland Giants and the Chicago Giants. His clubs were consistently the best or among the best black baseball clubs in the country.

He was a visionary who believed strongly in the need for a national league comprised of black baseball teams. Over the winter of 1907-08, Leland made a concentrated effort to form the "National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs." Even though the "league" never opened for play, it did bring national attention to the need for an organized professional league for black ball clubs.

Besides his baseball ventures, Frank Leland held several important government jobs and played a key role in both civic and political activities in the African American community in Chicago during his career. He was without a doubt one of the most influential African Americans in Chicago during his lifetime.

Frank Leland was also a very successful business man. When Frank joined forces with Major Robert R. Jackson and Beauregard F. Mosley to form the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association in 1907, they created a significant multi-business organization that owned and operated significantly more than just a baseball team.

Leland is considered by many as the premier owner and manager of the first decade of the 1900's.



**Frank C. Leland**  
(1869-1914)

### **Early Baseball Career**

From 1879 to 1886 Frank Leland attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. After graduating from Fisk in 1886, Frank moved to Washington, D.C. where in 1887 he signed as an outfielder to play for the Washington Capital Citys in the newly formed National League of Colored Baseball Clubs. This was the first attempt in black baseball history to form a professional baseball league comprised only of black teams. Reportedly part of the master plan for the "league" was to develop black ball players for the "white" Major Leagues. The National League of Colored Baseball Clubs opened for play on May 6, 1887 with six teams (Baltimore Lord Baltimores, Boston Resolutes, Louisville Fall Citys, New York Gorhams, Philadelphia Pythians and Pittsburgh Keystones). The Cincinnati Browns and the Washington Capital Citys joined the "league" immediately after the start of the season. In the inaugural "league" game the New York Gorhams defeated the Pittsburgh Keystones by a score of 11-8. Unfortunately, the "league" folded on May 23, 1887 a mere two weeks after their opening day. No records have been found of the Cincinnati Browns or Washington Capital Citys ever playing an official "league" game.

When the Washington Capital Citys folded, Frank moved to Chicago in the spring of 1887. His first venture in black baseball in Chicago was umpiring for a local black amateur team named the Unions. It wasn't long before he started playing centerfield for the team. The 1887 Unions were

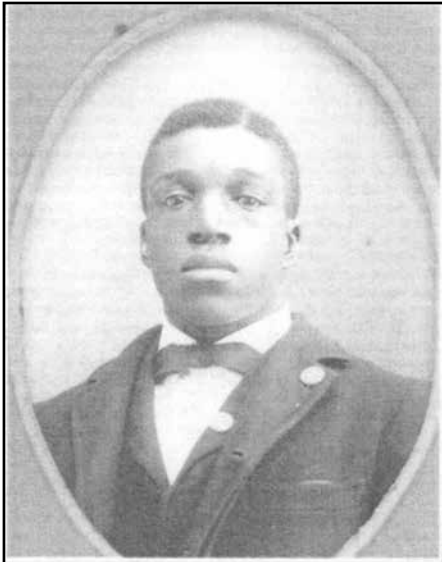
managed by Abe Jones who also was the team's starting catcher. Also on the team as their starting first baseman was W.S. Peters, who would later become a very well-known team owner and manager.

### **Leland and Peters Form the Chicago Unions**

Before the start of the 1888 baseball season, Frank Leland joined Chicago businessmen Henry Elby, Albert Donegan and W.S. Peters to organize the Chicago Unions. They were an amateur black baseball team who were based in Chicago. Shortly after the team was formed, they obtained a lease from the City of Chicago for the team to play their home games at Southside Park. With their ability to attract some of the best black baseball players in the Midwest, the Chicago Unions quickly became the premier black team in the Midwest. During the week they barnstormed through the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. The team would then return to Chicago on the weekend for their "big money" games that were usually played on Sundays. It was not uncommon for the Chicago Unions to play two or three games on Sunday. The top "white" semiprofessional teams in and around the Chicago area were frequent opponents for the Chicago Unions. Often these games were played on a winner take all basis and significant side bets were not uncommon. In the late 1890's the Cuban X-Giants were the primary rival of the Chicago Unions. Atlanta, New Orleans, Norfolk, Savannah and St. Louis also fielded strong teams in the Midwest and South during the 1888 season.

The 1888 Chicago Unions were managed by former Unions' manager, Abe Jones. Frank Leland was the team's starting right fielder and W.S. Peters played first base.

R.R. Jackson managed the 1889 Chicago Unions team. They fielded a strong line-up that featured the play of Abe Jones (C), Frank Leland (CF) and W.S. Peters (1B). During the 1889 season the Chicago Unions played their home games at a small park located at 76<sup>th</sup> Street and Langley Avenue. The 1889 baseball season was Frank Leland's last as a player.



**Billy Holland**  
Chicago Unions  
(1894, 1897-1899)

From 1890 to 1899 the Chicago Unions were one of the top teams in the Midwest. Their main competition from 1895 to 1898 were the Page Fence Giants from Adrian (MI) who unquestionably dominated black baseball in the Midwest. Some of the top players for the Chicago Unions during the 1890's were Harry Buckner (P), Pete Burns (C), Bob Footes (C), Billy Holland (P), Bill Horn (P), Harry Hyde (3B), Abe Jones (C), Bert Jones (P), Willis Jones (OF), Bill Monroe (SS), Mike Moore (OF), Bill Peters (1B), Big Bill Smith (P/OF) and David Wyatt (SS). Dave Wyatt later became a famous sports writer for the Chicago Whip, the Indianapolis Freeman and the Chicago Defender.

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

In 1899 the Chicago Unions fielded a very strong starting line-up that included Mike Moore (1B), Bill Monroe (SS), Harry Hyde (3B), Robert Footes (C), Willis Jones (OF), Bill Holland (OF/P), Bert Jones (P) and Bill Horn (P). During the season the Chicago Unions played the Columbia Giants whose roster was comprised of former Page Fence Giants players for the "Colored Championship of Chicago." The Columbia Giants won all five games of the series to claim the

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

The top Chicago Unions team that W.S. Peters (General Manager) and Frank Leland (Traveling Manager) put together was their 1900 squad. Peters and Leland recruited the following players to field a very strong starting line-up: Robert Footes (C), William Horn (P), Harry Hyde (3B), Bert Jones (P), Grant “Homerun” Johnson (SS), Willis Jones (OF), Bill Monroe (2B), Harry “Mike” Moore (OF) and Bert Wakefield (1B). During the 1900 season the Cuban X-Giants traveled to Chicago to challenge the Chicago Unions for the title of “Colored World’s Champions.” The Cuban X-Giants had consistently dominated the Chicago Unions over the years, but the 1900 championship series provided a different outcome for the Peters-Leland team. The Chicago Unions prevailed in beating their perennial foe to claim the series championship.

From 1891 to 1900 Frank Leland worked in the Chicago area and also served as the Chicago Unions traveling manager from 1896 through 1900. W.S. Peters took over as the player/manager for the Chicago Unions in 1890 and held that position until he and Frank Leland split during the 1901 season. In the 1890’s Frank Leland and W.S. Peters were the top two figures in black baseball in the Chicago area. The two primary reasons for their parting ways in 1901 were as follows:

1. The Chicago Unions lost their lease on their home field located at 37<sup>th</sup> and Butler streets and they were then forced to become a fulltime traveling team.
2. In addition according to Frank Leland, Peters had begun to alienate white semi-pro club managers with questionable decisions. An example of this was when Peters scheduled a three game series with Marquette and the Cuban X-Giants on the same days. Peters ended up canceling the series with Marquette and they were left with no opponent to play.

After his split with Frank Leland, W.S. Peters continued to be very active in black baseball in Chicago. Over the years Leland and Peters feuded bitterly, especially over the name “Union Giants.”

### **Chicago Unions Built a Winning Tradition**

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

### **Leland Forms the Chicago Union Giants**

According to Frank Leland’s Chicago Giants Baseball Club – Media Guide which was published in 1910, Frank Leland combined the best players from the Chicago Unions and the Columbia Giants to form the Chicago Union Giants on July 17, 1901. Interestingly enough the only player from the Columbia Giants team to play for the 1901 Chicago Union Giants was Joe Miller (pitcher). The 1900 Columbia Giants had an outstanding team that included the following high profile players: Sherman Barton (OF), William Binga (3B), Harry Buchner (P), Pete Burns (C), Charles Grant (2B), William Holland (OF), George Johnson (1B), Sol White (SS) and George Wilson (P). In addition according to our research, the Columbia Giants fielded a team in 1901 and 1902. In conclusion it is our contention that the Chicago Unions and Columbia Giants did not merge to form the Chicago Union Giants. Frank Leland did change the name of the team and did sign several new players to strengthen his roster.



**Chicago Union Giants**  
Game Action  
Randolph, Wisconsin

Frank Leland was both the owner and manager of the Chicago Union Giants from 1901 through 1904. As the owner/manager of the Chicago Union Giants, the first that that he did was to sign a strong line-up for the 1901 baseball season that included Willis Jones (OF), Harry “Mike” Moore (2B), George Richardson (SS), Dangerfield Talbot (3B), Albert Toney (OF) and Bill Wakefield (1B). Clarence Lytle was the ace of the pitching staff that also included Bert Jones, Bill Joyner and Joe Miller for the 1901 Chicago Union Giants. The Chicago Union Giants were considered the second best team in the West during the 1901 season. The Chicago Columbia Giants were considered the best team in the West in 1901.

The Chicago Union Giants called Auburn Park located at 79<sup>th</sup> and Wentworth Avenue their home field. They quickly became one of the top black baseball teams in the Midwest.

Prior to the start of the 1902 season Frank Leland strengthened his roster by signing Harry Hyde (1B), Dave Wyatt (2B), Bill Binga (3B), George “Chappie” Johnson (C), Eugene Milliner (SS), John “Pat” Patterson (OF) and Andrew “Rube” Foster (P). Holdovers Willis Jones (OF), Clarence Lytle (P), Joe “Cannonball” Miller (P) and Dangerfield Talbert (SS) rounded out a very strong team.

The key acquisition for Leland going into the 1902 season was the signing of a promising young pitcher by the name of Andrew “Rube” Foster who had played the 1901 season with the Waco Yellow Jackets and Fort Worth Colts. Foster played with the Chicago Union Giants from May until the first week of August when he and second baseman Dave Wyatt left the team to join an all “white” team in Otsego, Michigan. Leland and Foster would be reunited in 1907.

During the 1902 season the Chicago Union Giants played their home games at Auburn Park. According to research by Gary Ashwill and his Negro League research team, the Chicago Union Giants were the best team in the West during the 1902 season.



**Chicago Union Giants (1902)**

(standing left to right – **Andrew “Rube” Foster**, John W. “Pat” Patterson, **William Henry Binga**, Harry Hyde, Joe “Kid” Miller and Dangerfield Talbert. Kneeling left to right – Dave Wyatt, Robert “Bob” Footes, George “Chappie” Johnson and Willis Jones)

Before the start of the 1903 baseball season, the owners of the Algona Brownies who were based in Algona, Iowa decided to field an “all black” squad. The owners of the Brownies recruited players from the Chicago Union Giants and Columbia Giants to bring a powerhouse baseball team to the small Midwestern town.

The roster for the 1903 Algona Brownies was as follows:

<b>Algona Brownies</b>		<b>Former Team</b>
Robinson	1B	Unknown
George Richardson	2B	Chicago Union Giants
Albert Toney	SS	Chicago Union Giants
Dangerfield Talbert	3B	Chicago Union Giants
George Johnson	C	Columbia Giants
Sherman Barton	OF	Columbia Giants
Willis Jones	OF	Chicago Union Giants
Harry “Mike” Moore	OF	Chicago Union Giants
Pete Burns	OF/C	Columbia Giants
Bill Holland	P	Columbia Giants
William Horn	P	Chicago Unions
Bert Jones	P	Chicago Union Giants
John Davis	P	Chicago Union Giants

After losing most of his best players to the Algona Brownies, Leland was forced to rebuild. In addition to losing several players to Algona, Leland also lost his star pitcher Andrew “Rube” Foster to the Cuban X-Giants. Even with all of his roster changes, Frank Leland fielded a very competitive team for the 1903 season.

Frank Leland's lineup for the 1903 season was as follows:

#### **Chicago Union Giants (1903)**

George Taylor	1B	Charles "Joe" Green	OF
Fred Roberts	2B	Eugene Milliner	OF
James Smith	SS	George "Walter" Ball	P
Harry Hyde	3B	Arthur Ross	P
Robert Footes	C	Joe Miller	P
Andrew Campbell	C	John Davis	P
David Wyatt	OF	Jack Johnson	P

Frank Leland moved his home field from Auburn Park to Aurora Park for the 1903 season.

During the summer of 1903 season Algona met Frank Leland's Chicago Union Giants for the "Colored Championship of the West." Game one of the series was played in Chicago on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Chicago Union Giants won the game in 10 innings by a score of 3-2. Four excursion trains brought fans to the tiny lakeside community of Okoboji (IA) for game two of the series which was played on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Arnold's Park. The Brownies won game two of the series by a score of 5-4 (some newspaper accounts have the score as 6-4) to tie the series. With their star studded lineup, the Algona Brownies took game three at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds ball park on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Algona by a score of 7-3. Two more games were played in Des Moines (IA) before the Brownies disposed of the Chicago Union Giants to claim the championship title. The Algona Brownies and Chicago Union Giants met again in a rematch in August of 1903. Algona won both games of the series by scores of 12-4 and 7-0. Algona continued to have a very successful season and played into October when they beat Winnipeg Maroons (champions of the Northern League) by a score of 5-3 in Postville, IA. Newspaper accounts credit the 1903 Brownies with a won-loss record of 38-4 on August 18, 1903. Even with all their success, Algona did not field a team for the 1904 season. The Algona Brownies were considered the "Colored Champions of the West" for the 1903 season.

The 1904 Chicago Union Giants featured the hitting of Sherman Barton (OF), William Binga (3B), Joe Green (OF), Dangerfield Talbert (2B), George Taylor (1B) and Albert Toney (SS). Johnny Davis, Dell Matthews, Tom Means and Arthur Ross comprised the team's pitching staff. The Chicago Union Giants were considered the fourth best team in the West in 1904.

#### **Chicago Union Giants Become the Leland Giants**

Prior to the start of the 1905 season, Frank Leland changed the name of his team from the "Chicago Union Giants" to the "Leland Giants." The home field for the 1905 Leland Giants was Auburn Park which was located at 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Auburn Ave. To bolster his line-up, Frank Leland signed Nate Harris who had played with many top teams like the Smokey City Giants under Bud Fowler, Columbia Giants and the Cuban Giants of New York. Harris was immediately named the captain of the team and their starting second baseman. The starting line-up for the 1905 Leland Giants was as follows:

#### **Leland Giants (1905)**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Player</b>
1B	George Taylor	OF	Sherman Barton
2B	Nate Harris	OF	Joe Green
SS	Jimmy Smith	OF	Dell Matthews
3B	William Binga		
C	Ginney Robinson / Bill Prim	P	Walter Ball

Also pitching for the 1905 Leland Giants were Johnny Davis, Bill Holland, Bill Horn and Dell Matthews.





#### Leland Giants (1905)

(Standing left to right – Sherman Barton, Dell Mathews, Bill Horn, George Taylor and Nate Harris. Seated left to right – Charles “Joe” Green, Johnny Davis, **Frank Leland**, (no first name) Brown, William Binga and Jimmy Smith.  
Front row left to right – Arthur Ross, Mascot, Bill Holland and Ginney Robinson)

With Frank Leland at the helm of the Leland Giants the team had the best season of Frank’s managerial career. The 1905 Leland Giants reportedly posted a won-loss record of 112-10 (.918) which included a 48 game winning streak (May 19<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup>) during the season. According to a newspaper interview which occurred in 1910 with shortstop Jimmy Smith, the Spaldings club of Chicago broke their winning streak. Smith also reported in an article that appeared in the Freeman on January 1, 1910 that the 1905 Leland Giants had a record of 93-25-3 (.788)

In early 1906 the National Association of Colored Baseball Clubs of the United States and Cuba was formed. The goals of the organization were as follows:

1. Control player’s ability to jump contracts.
2. Maintain and build relationships with white semi-professional teams.
3. Gain access to better ball parks.
4. Develop barnstorming tours both nationally and internationally.

The Leland Giants joined the organization and Frank Leland gave it his full support.

Frank Leland’s Leland Giants also joined the Park Owners Association (POA) to strengthen their relationships with other top clubs in the Chicago area. The association was made up of Chicago’s top semiprofessional teams. Anson’s Colts, Artesians, Gunthers, Lawndale, Leland Giants, Logan Squares, Normals, Rogers Park, South Chicago and the West Ends all belonged to the Park Owners Association in 1906.

Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association  
Stock Offering

**Leland Giants Base-Ball and Amusement Assn.  
Now Organizing—Capital Stock  
\$100,000**

The Stock-Holders of the Leland Giants Base-Ball Association, has concluded to dissolve that Association in order to give room for the former, with its increased Capital for the purpose of buying a Permanent Home For The Leland Giants Base-Ball Club and Establishing For All The People, The Only First Class, Up-To-Date Amusement Park, With Its Theater (Light Opera), Figure Eight, Shoot The Chutes, Minature Ry, Electric Theater, Dance Pavilion, Roller Hurley Barley, Double Swing, Bunting, Auto Riding, and all the latest fun making devices and laugh producing concessions, together with a First Class Summer Hotel, large enough to accommodate 1000 guests, at its present location, 79th and Wentworth Ave., twenty (20) minutes ride on the Electric Cars to the Loop District in Chicago.

The Public is Base-Ball mad, and amusement crazy. Stocks have doubled in value in a single season. Millions can be made by those Who Take Stock In This New Enterprise.

Are You In Favor Of The Race Owning And Operating This Immense And Well Paying Plant, Where More Than 1,000 Persons Will Be Employed, between May and October of each year, where you can come without fear and Enjoy The Life and Freedom of a Citizen unmolested or annoyed? The Answer can only be effectively given by subscribing for Stock in this Corporation. It has been made purposely low so that all Loyal Members of the Race can have a Share and Interest in this Twentieth Century Enterprise. Think of it, Shares Only Ten (10.00) Dollars Each. You Squander More than this amount Any Holiday around Amusement Parks and Public Places, where you are not wanted and never welcome. Come! buy and build one of your own by filling out the attached Coupon and mail with Ten Dollars to the Leland Giants Base-Ball and Amusement Association. Do it to-day so that we may commence to build.

Leland Giants Base Ball & Amusement Assn.

6256 Halsted Street, Chicago, Ill.

Mr Beauregard F. Moseley, Treas:-

Enclosed please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_

which I am sending as Part (or in full) as subscription fee for \_\_\_\_\_ shares of the Capital Stock of the Leland Giants Base Ball and Amusement Association.

I agree to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month until the full amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ has been paid, at which time I am to receive my stock certificate.

R. B.

All payments on Stock Accounts must be made to the order of Beauregard F. Moseley, Treasurer, 6256 Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois. All Stockholders are entitled to preference as employees and should inform the Treasurer with their first remittance of their intention to apply for employment.

For further information, address Leland Giants Base-Ball and Amusement Assn. 6256 Halsted St. Chicago, Ill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

According to newspaper accounts the 1906 season was a disappointment for the Leland Giants. The primary reason for a poor season was the turnover in the team's roster. Gone from the Giants 1905 championship starting line-up were: William Binga (3B), Nate Harris (2B), Billy Holland (P/OF), William Horn (P), Dell Matthews (OF), William Prim (C), Bob Robinson (C) and Arthur Ross (P). Leland tried replacing them by signing Bill Gatewood (P), Clarence Lytle (P/OF), Bruce Petway (C), Howard Petway (P), Dangerfield Talbert (3B) and Albert Toney (SS). Unfortunately, these roster changes did not work as the Leland Giants dropped from the best team in the West to the third best. The Philadelphia Giants were the best black team in the country in 1906.

### **Frank Leland Signs Andrew "Rube" Foster**

Prior to the start of the 1907 season Frank Leland lured Andrew "Rube" Foster (P), Pete Hill (OF), Pete Booker (C), Nate Harris (2B) and Harry "Mike" Moore (1B) away from the Philadelphia Giants. Frank also raided Eastern teams for the following players: Jap Payne (Brooklyn Royal Giants), Bobby Winston (Cuban X-Giants) and George Wright (Brooklyn Royal Giants).

Rube Foster became the ace of the pitching staff and the team's manager for the 1907 season. Pete Hill would lead the Leland Giants offensively. With Rube Foster as the traveling manager for the Leland Giants, Frank Leland settled into the role of the President and General Manager for the team.

### **Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association**

Early in 1907 Frank Leland, Major Robert R. Jackson and Beauregard F. Mosley worked together to form the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association (LGBAA). The Board of Directors for the association included Leland, Jackson, Mosley (who was also an attorney) and Professor William Emmanuel (who had been the President of the elite Appomattox Club). The venture brought in a capital infusion of \$ 100,000 for Leland and his business interests. The new company not only owned the Leland Giants baseball team but also owned a resort, restaurant, skating rink, bowling alley, opera theater and an "electric theater" (movie theater). They also leased the Columbia Dance Hall. Besides being sound financial investments, these business interests were also a direct response to "white" Chicago's discrimination in amusement venues and public accommodations for Chicago's black population. When everything was in place, Frank Leland sponsored a contest to name his new facility. The winning name was "Chateau de la Plaisance" (House of Pleasure).

When Rube Foster became the manager of the Leland Giants, his first order of business was to totally revamp the team's roster. The only starting players that Foster resigned from the 1906 squad were Walter Ball (P) and Dangerfield Talbert (3B). When he was done recruiting, Rube Foster had put together a roster that would be very difficult to defeat during the 1907 season. Foster's 1907 Leland Giants roster was as follows:

#### **Leland Giants (1907)**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Player</b>
1B	Harry "Mike" Moore	OF	Andrew "Jap" Payne
2B	Nathan "Nate" Harris	OF	Bobby Winston
SS	George Wright	OF	Pete Hill
3B	Dangerfield Talbert		
C	Pete Booker/Haywood Rose	P	Rube Foster
		P	Walter Ball
		P	William Norman

# Highlights of the 1907 Leland Giants Season

## "RUBE" FOSTER IN STAR ROLL

Pitches No Hit, No Run Game.

### GIANTS WIN ONE; LOSE ONE.

Both Games Being Very Tight, and Fast Ball Played.

Chicago, Ill., special: On Wednesday, August 28, the Leland Giants defeated the All-Stars at Logan Square Park. From start to finish Rube Foster had them all going and fanned them out at will. Over 5,000 Elks attended the game. The score and lineup:

All-Stars.		R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
McNichols, 3b.	.....	0	0	0	4	0
Callahan, lf.	.....	0	0	1	0	0
Stahl, lb.	.....	1	1	0	0	0
Ryan, cf.	.....	0	0	0	0	0
Zangerle, c.	.....	0	1	1	0	0
Dicke, ss.	.....	0	0	2	1	0
Martin, 2b.	.....	0	0	2	1	0
Messitt, c.	.....	0	0	7	2	1
Roach, p.	.....	0	1	0	2	0

Leland Giants.		R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Winston, lf.	.....	2	0	0	0	0
Harris, 2b.	.....	0	0	3	5	1
Payne, cf.	.....	0	0	3	0	0
Talbert, 3b.	.....	0	0	1	3	0
Moore, lb.	.....	0	0	11	0	0
Foster, p.	.....	1	1	0	2	1
Booker, c.	.....	0	1	5	1	0
Wright, ss.	.....	0	1	2	1	0
Rose, rf.	.....	0	0	2	0	0

Totals	.....	3	5	27	13	2
Leland Giants	.....	1	0	1	0	0
All Stars	.....	0	0	1	0	0

Three base hit—Winston. Sacrifice hits—Booker, Foster. Stolen bases—Stahl (2), Zangerle, Winston (2), Harris. Struck out—By Foster, 15 by Roach, 6. Bases on balls—Off Foster, 1; off Roach, 4. Left on bases—All Stars, 4; Leland Giants, 4. Hit by pitched—McNichols. Wild pitch—Roach. Time—1:50. Umpire—Connolly. Attendance—5,000.

### Scores:

L. Giants.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Winston, lf.	1	1	0	0	0
Harris, 2b.	0	1	3	3	0
Payne, cf.	0	0	0	0	0
Wright, ss.	0	0	3	5	0
Moore, lb.	0	1	14	0	0
Foster, p.	0	0	0	5	1
Booker, c.	0	0	7	1	0
Talbert, 3b.	0	0	0	1	0
Rose, rf., cf.	0	0	0	0	0
Gajewood, rf.	0	0	0	0	1

Total ..... 1 3 27 15 2

S. Chicagos.	R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
McKee, cf.	0	0	2	0	0
Staton, ss.	0	0	2	0	0
Babcock, lf.	0	0	3	0	0
Brading, rf.	0	0	2	0	0
Larex, 3b.	0	0	0	0	1
Callahan, lb.	0	0	9	0	2
Hill, 2b.	0	0	2	2	0
Tannon, c.	0	0	4	1	0
Hillebrand, p.	0	0	0	2	0

Total ..... 0 0 24 11 3

L. Giants	.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	*—1
S. Chicago	.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0—0

Stolen bases—Winston, Talbert. Double plays—Foster to Wright to Moore. Struck out—By Foster, 7; by Hillebrand, 3. Bases on balls—Off Foster, 3. Hit by pitcher—Harris. Time of game—1:50. Umpire—McCarthy. Attendance—4,500.

### The score:

LELAND GIANTS.		R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Winston, lf.	.....	1	2	2	0	0
Harris, 2b.	.....	1	0	2	5	0
Payne, c. f.	.....	0	2	1	0	1
Wright, ss.	.....	0	1	0	5	1
Moore, l. b. f.	.....	1	1	15	0	0
Foster, p.	.....	0	1	0	5	0
Booker, c.	.....	0	0	3	1	1
Talbert, 3 b.	.....	0	0	0	2	0
Rose, r. f.-l b.	.....	0	0	1	0	1

Totals ..... 3 7 27 19 4

MILWAUKEE.		R.	H.	P.	A.	E.
Robinson, 3 b.	.....	1	0	1	1	0
Green, r. f.	.....	0	2	2	0	0
Kruger, 2 b.	.....	1	1	2	3	0
Hoth, c.	.....	0	1	4	1	1
White, l b.	.....	0	0	11	1	0
McBride, ss.	.....	0	0	2	5	0
Humphill, l. f.	.....	0	0	1	0	0
Mahoney, c. f.	.....	0	0	1	0	0
Wilson, p.	.....	0	1	0	2	0

Totals ..... 2 5 24 13 1

The score by innings:  
Leland Giants.....0 1 0 0 0 0 2 \*—5  
Milwaukee.....1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0—2  
Two base hits—Moore, Green.  
Double plays—Wilson to Kruger to White; White to Robinson to McBride; Wright to Harris to Moore.  
Struck out—By Foster, 5; by Wilson, 4.  
Bases on balls—Foster, 3; Wilson, 1.  
Umpire—Sweeney.  
Time—1:50.

Leland Giants  
vs  
Donlin's All Stars

Indianapolis Freeman  
09-09-07

Rube Foster Pitches No-Hitter  
vs  
South Chicagos

Indianapolis Freeman  
09-28-07

Leland Giants  
vs  
Milwaukee Brewers

Indianapolis Freeman  
p10-19-07

Before the start of the regular season, Rube Foster took the Leland Giants on a spring training barnstorming tour. When the team returned to Chicago they made Auburn Park their home field for the 1907 season.

One of the highlights of the 1907 season for the Leland Giants was a pair of three game series played at Logan Square Park and Comiskey Park against Mike “Turkey” Donlin’s All Stars. Besides Donlin, his team featured former Major League veterans J.J. “Jimmie” Callahan, Jimmie Ryan and Jake Stahl. The first series started on August 6<sup>th</sup> and the Leland Giants won two of the three games. After losing the first game by a score of 11-1, Foster’s Giants came back and beat their powerful “white” opponents by the scores of 3-2 and 1-0. The second series began on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Like the first series, the Leland Giants won two of the three games played. They beat Donlin’s team by the scores of 3-1 and 8-4. They lost the second game of series two by the score of 1-3. Over the three games of the second series, 13,500 fans attended the games. The Leland Giants showed a profit of \$ 1,687.50 for the second series. Not only did they win both series over Mike Donlin’s All Stars but they also won a \$ 1,500 side bet from Mike Donlin. The black press praised Rube Foster and the Leland Giants for their play. The Broad Axe proclaimed Rube Foster as “one of the greatest players in the country.” Their victory over Mike Donlin’s All Stars was also seen as a symbol of race pride to the African American community.

Another highlight of the 1907 season was when Rube Foster pitched a no-hit, no run game against the South Chicagos. The South Chicagos were a very competitive team who were owned and managed by Major League player Jake Stahl. Foster and the Leland Giants won the game by a score of 1-0.

In October the Leland Giants finished off the season on a high note when they beat the Milwaukee Brewers of the American Association by a score of 3-2. Rube Foster limited the “white” Minor Leaguers to just five hits while striking out five.

During the 1907 season the Leland Giants won the Chicago City League title and also beat the Chicago City League All Stars in four straight games at the end of the season. Rube Foster won all four games.

In one short season, Rube Foster had transformed the Leland Giants back to one of the best black baseball teams in the country, Chicago City League champions and the “Colored Champions of the West.” Rube Foster proved to be an extremely incredible competitive person who focused on winning at all costs. Foster was also not above exaggerating his team’s efforts or manipulating the facts to fit his purpose. An example of this may well be seen in how Rube Foster presented the won-loss record for his 1907 team. According to Rube Foster his team posted a record of 103-1 which of course is highly unlikely. Negro League researcher, John Holway, credits the 1907 Leland Giants with having won 110 games during the season.

It appeared that Frank Leland and Rube Foster were going to make an excellent team. With Rube Foster running the day-to-day operations of the ball club and Frank Leland building civic ties with Chicago and developing relationships with black business leaders, the Leland Giants were headed in the right direction for building a long term successful baseball team.

Rube Foster was also the ace pitcher of the Leland Giants in 1907. The Chicago Inter Ocean newspaper reported the following assessment of Foster’s pitching ability.

“ Rube Foster is a pitcher with the tricks of a (Hoss) Radbourne, the speed of (Amos) Rusie and the coolness and deliberation of a Cy Young. What does this make him? Why, the greatest baseball pitcher in the country; that’s what the greatest baseball players of white persuasion who have gone against him say.”

Frank Leland Makes Plans for  
National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs

**A NATIONAL LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL NEGRO BASE BALL CLUBS FOR NEXT SEASON.**

A movement has been put forward by white and colored capitalists to form a stock company to substantiate a National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs in eight of our leading cities. Already plans have been made for the coming season and it is only a very small matter now as to whether there will be a league. Some of the very wealthiest base ball fans have already got together and have come to excellent agreement on the idea of having a league. Mr. Frank C. Leland, of Chicago, one of the owners of the Leland Giants Club; Mr. Elwood Knox, manager of The Indianapolis Freeman, and Br. Ran Butler, owner of the A. B. C. Club of Indianapolis, are among those who are deeply interested in the project. Sointerested have these gentlemen become that an invitation has been extended to have as many of the leading lights in the sport would get together at the earliest possible date at Indianapolis, Ind., being that the city mentioned affords so many advantages in the way of railroad fares and so many other things greatly to the pleasure of ball fans coming from such cities as Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, Louisville, Pittsburg, Kansas City, Nashville, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit and Columbus.

Out of the cities mentioned there are to be eight in number to constitute this league and the eight will be picked according to what a showing they shall make after a trial contest. Of course, other cities will be allowed to make a showing if they so desire.

to make a showing if they so desire.

The most important affair of the league will be, just now, to get a capital on hand and Messrs. Leland, Knox, Foster and Butler desire to hold a meeting at Indianapolis on December 18 on January 5, for that purpose. The Leland Giants Association will play a great part in taking stock as early as it is needed.

Many baseball fans say that the idea of organizing the proposed league is a good one, and should have been on foot long years ago, as the average Afro-American is of a sportive nature. There is at least a dozen letters received every day at this office of an inquiring nature concerning the outlook and prospects of a National League, and the editor of these columns is, indeed, glad to note such a strong spirit. It will be known that every person under the sun who is a well wisher of the movement, whether he be an owner or manager of some ball club or not, is requested to take some part in getting and holding the league, now that it is started out. Views pertaining to the organization will be greatly received and published, be it so requested.

We are asking that every lover of the sport will make it his pleasure, if possible, to be present at the base ball convention in Indianapolis on December 18, 1907, or January 5, 1908. The following letter has been received from one of the greatest ball fans of the day:

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 25, 1907.  
Mr. Elwood C. Knox:

Mr. Elwood C. Knox:

Dear Sir—There is a movement on foot towards the formation of a National Colored League of Professional Base Ball Clubs for the Season of 1908. Of eight clubs to be picked from the following cities, are: St. Louis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Louisville, Pittsburg, Chicago, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Toledo, Detroit, Milwaukee, Memphis, Nashville, Tenn., and Columbus, O. The eight to be chosen from the cities showing the best advantages. Each club to be consolidated by a stock company. Have heard from a majority of the cities named and all will attend the first meeting, each willing to accept one of the first managements of the charter organization. We will probably call the meeting, to be held either in Indianapolis or Chicago, December 18, 1907, or January 5, 1908; just as soon as I can get to rejust the best time suitable to them. \* \* \*

Therefore, look out for the National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs—season 1908.

Yours truly,

F. C. LELAND.  
Chicago, Ill.

Frank Leland  
Letter to Editor

Freeman  
11-09-07

Elwood Knox  
Editor of Freeman  
Editorial on "League"

Freeman  
11-09-07

During 1907 Frank Leland was elected as a Cook County Commissioner. His new government job was prestigious but also taxed him physically. When Frank's health started to fail during the season, he turned over the booking of the games to Rube Foster. This move gave Rube Foster total control of the team both on and off the field.

### **Frank Leland's Plan for a New Baseball League**

According to a newspaper article that appeared in the Freeman on November 9, 1907 Frank Leland proposed the formation of a "new baseball league" made up strictly of black teams. The proposed name for the "new league" was the "National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs." Initially Frank Leland got support for the idea from Elwood C. Knox (editor of the Freeman newspaper) and Randolph "Ran" Butler (owner of the Indianapolis ABCs). Leland's plan proposed an eight team league that would play a schedule from May to September with possible franchise cities including Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville, Memphis, Milwaukee, Nashville and Toledo.

An organizational meeting for the "new league" was held on December 18<sup>th</sup> in Elwood Knox's office at the Freeman in Indianapolis. During the meeting, the following officers were elected:

	<b>Team/Organization</b>	<b>Position</b>
Frank Leland	Leland Giants	President
Edward Lancaster	Louisville Giants	Vice-President
Edward S. Guillard	Indianapolis ABCs	Corresponding Secretary
Cory B. Lewis	Louisville Giants	Secretary
William Roberts	Indianapolis ABCs	Treasurer
Charles Marshall	<u>Freeman</u>	Organizer

From December 28, 1907 to January 25, 1908 "league" officials established guidelines for a team to gain entry into the proposed "league." The Freeman reported the following guidelines in their newspaper:

1. The baseball club must be represented by a stock based company fully organized and incorporated under state law.
2. The baseball club must secure a bond (amount to be determined at a future date).
3. The baseball club must pay a fee of \$ 50 to the "league" treasury.
4. The baseball club must secure a suitable ball park.
5. The baseball club must have the full support of the press.

Newspaper articles in the Freeman and several other leading newspapers showed support for the proposed "league" not only from the Midwest but also from the South and East.

Despite all the work of several of the top baseball men in the Midwest, the "new league" never got off the ground. One of the reasons for the failure to launch the "new league" was Frank Leland's diminishing health. On February 15, 1908 the Freeman reported that Leland had suffered from heart failure. Conjecture was that Frank had spread himself too thin for too long. In 1907 and 1908 Frank Leland held down what amounted to four full time jobs (Cook County Commissioner, General Manager of Leland Giants, manager of the Chateau de la Plaisance skating rink and working to organize a new baseball league).

The 1908 season for the Leland Giants baseball team started the season with the following officers running the baseball team:

	<b>Position</b>
Frank Leland	President and General Manager
Robert Jackson	Vice-President
Beauregard Mosley	Secretary/Treasurer
Rube Foster	Manager/Captain

## National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs Fails to Materialize

Even with significant support from all over the country the National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs failed to launch its inaugural season.

### GROWING INTEREST TAKEN IN PROPOSED LEAGUE.

**Baseball Enthusiasts All Over the Country Will Take Stock.**

Increasing interest is being felt more and more each day so far as the organizing of a National Colored Baseball League is concerned. Letters of inquiry continue to pour into this office in added numbers with each mail and every one of them are of an encouraging nature. One correspondent states that "the league will be the proper thing, simply for the reason that it will give every one an opportunity to see the National Game played in its best form. We will have the pleasure of enjoying good ball playing with the air of freedom that the white man does in his park. But, best of all, it will do all towards keeping a standard among our ball clubs and individuals. When we visit a ball game we will know that it will be worth seeing for the matter of knowing that the teams playing belong to the National League, which indicates professional playing." The formation of a league will do much toward separating the "scrub" from the professional players so as to insure fast ball playing. Also it will give the good player a chance to work up to good salaries.

All this is well and good, but the most important thing is yet to come. Arrangements must be made for railroad rates; salaries must be figured on; ball grounds have to be secured—that is suitable ones for the lady fan—and a hundred other things which will take a deal of brains, money and time. That is why it will be, indeed, necessary for those interested to get together by the 18 of December of January 1, at Indianapolis or Chicago. Already Mr. Frank C. Leland, Rube Foster, Ran Butler, Elwood C. Knox, J. D. Howard and others have signed their names to an agreement to meet at either date at either place mentioned which ever date or city shall best meet the approval of the majority interested.

The editor of sporting news of this paper desires that every one send in their view concerning the league, when and where it shall meet and how it should be constructed.

### TIME OF LEAGUE MEETING DRAWS NEAR

**President As Yet Undecided On Date**

Although the date has not been set so far for the proposed meeting of the National Colored Baseball League, indications point to an early date. Several suggestions have been made to the president, but as yet no real official date has been given out. It is thought that the 16th or 23d of next month may be decided upon by President Leland, unless something new in his plans develop. However, it is safe to say that the date of the meeting is not far distant, and every one is urged to begin preparations for attending at once.

#### All Managers to Attend

The president urges every manager to attend the meeting to soon be called by him on the account of causing a drawback to the meeting in your not being present. Little, if anything, can be accomplished if every individual who is asked to attend does not put in his appearance. It should not be expected of two or three to do the work of all. You should come and help out.

#### Success Is Hoped

This meeting is to tell whether it will be possible or not to organize a league among Negro ball fans. This meeting will be the one to place the league on a solid footing so that she will be able to start out with the coming if it is to be a little late. So if you want to be put down as a member you must attend or give us evidential support. Just now it will be of little use for anyone to ask about the league, when it should be known that no plans have been set other than there is to be a league and a meeting to organize it at a date not yet set.

#### Date Will Be Given

In all probability the date will be announced in next week's issue of The Freeman. Every one is asked to not forget to give the next meeting their special attention.

### LEAGUE DETERMINED TO OPEN THIS SEASON.

**Opening of First Campaign Begins in May, It Is Rumored.**

The first real campaign of the Colored National Baseball League, according to the outlook in the national field of colored baseball players, will probably open early in May with a rousing campaign of fast ball playing, closing in September. This season is to be a trial season for baseball fans, magnates and players; it is to be one of experiment for those who hold interest in league ball. A meeting will be held early in April, probably at Louisville, to complete the schedule. Then it is expected that a stronger meeting of baseball men can be induced to attend.

The season of 1909 should be a greater one than the coming season, for by that time the league should be on a solid basis. Mr. Frank C. Leland, president of the league, sees no reason why we cannot come out on top in the coming season, but thinks the season of 1909 "should be the ringer. He also wants it understood that the league will not fail but that its officers are working hard each day to get it on foot and they are bound to be successful, for you never saw such an anxious set of owners and managers as are in the following towns: Richmond, Ind., Kokomo, Ind., Columbus, O., Cleveland, O., Springfield, O., Louisville, Ky., Nashville, Tenn., and Danville, Ill. Of course there have been some mistakes made in the forming of a circuit because of the several that have been made it was found that there were too many bad gaps between making costly railroad that were useless. The circuit of this season may differ vastly from the one to be formed for 1909. Where this season may see only six clubs in the league, the next may see eight or ten.



After wide public acceptance in their initial year, the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association significantly expanded their operation in 1908. They added a movie theater, permanent dance hall, summer garden and second restaurant to the facility. The association also sponsored several events that included a one mile handicap race, potato race (yes a potato race) and skating competition. They also announced plans to open an amusement park, outdoor music emporium and summer garden with a Peruvian gallery during the summer of 1908.

Rube Foster returned to the Leland Giants as the team's manager for the 1908 season. The Leland Giants returned their same starting line-up from with 1907 squad with the exception of Emmett Bowman replacing Nate Harris at second base. The leading hitters for the 1908 Leland Giants were Pete Hill (.392), Pete Booker (.358), Rube Foster (.341) and Bobby Winston (.318). Rube Foster, Walter Ball and Bob Garrison comprised the starting rotation for the Leland Giants during the 1908 season. William Dewberry, Billy Norman, Emmett Bowman, (no first name) Halfacre, (no first name) Page and William Sublette also pitched for the Leland Giants in 1908. The major change for the Leland Giants going into the 1908 season was changing home ball parks from Auburn Park to Logan Square Park.

Spring training for the team was held in Hot Springs, AR. The team traveled to Hot Springs in a private Pullman car. During the 1908 season the Leland Giants played an independent schedule during the week and also played in the Chicago City League which held most of its games on the weekends. The 1908 Chicago City League included the following teams: Athletics, Leland Giants, Logan Squares, Marquettes, River Views, South Chicago, Spaldings and the West Ends. According to newspaper accounts the Leland Giants went undefeated in Chicago City League play for the 1908 season. On August 8, 1908 the Freeman newspaper reported that the "league" had disbanded on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> the Indianapolis Freeman reported that the Leland Giants had a won-loss record of 53-4 (.930) up to that point in the season. According to the newspaper article the Leland Giants besides going undefeated in Chicago City League play had taken five straight games from the Cuban Giants, 11 of 14 games from the All Havanas of Cuba and 8 of 9 games from Jimmie Callahan's Logan Squares.

In late July and early August of 1908 the Philadelphia Giants (Colored Champions of the East) traveled to Chicago to play the Leland Giants for the "Colored Championship of the World." The two teams played six games in the championship series and each team won three games. For some unknown reason a seventh and deciding game was not played. Even though was no clear winner of the series both the Leland Giants and the Philadelphia Giants claimed the title of "Colored Champions of the World." A summary of the championship series is as follows:

Game	Location	Date	Winning Team	Score	Winning Pitcher	Losing Pitcher
1	Chicago	July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Leland	-	-	-
2	Chicago	July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia	5-4	Charles Hayman	Bob Garrison
3	Chicago	July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Leland	3-2	Walter Ball	Lefty Fisher
4	Chicago	Aug 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Leland	11-1	Rube Foster	Dan McClellan
5	Chicago	Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia	8-2	Martin	Rube Foster
6	Chicago	Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>	Philadelphia	7-4	Martin	Walter Ball

After the regular season the Leland Giants played a six game series against the Minneapolis Millers of the American Association. The Leland Giants won three of the first four games. It appears that games five and six were not reported in the media.

According to Rube Foster in a "Letter to the Sporting Editor of the Freeman" that appeared in the newspaper on February 13, 1909, the Leland Giants finished the season with a won-loss record of 108-18 (.857) with the pitching staff recording 40 shut outs. In addition Foster claimed that he established a world record of pitching 66 consecutive scoreless innings and led the team in

Leland Giants (1909)  
Spring Training Barnstorming Tour

Broadside

**BASE BALL!**  
**'GREATEST GAME EVER!**

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**LELAND GIANTS**  
OF CHICAGO  
**VS.**  
**SAMUEL HUSTON COLLEGE**  
AT AUSTIN, TEXAS.

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**DRIVING PARK, 3:30 P. M.**  
**SAN JACINTO DAY, APRIL 21, 1909.**

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Battery for S. H. C. Webb and Wills. Andrew Foster, the Greatest Negro Pitcher in the World will pitch for the Giants.

**ADMISSION, 50 cents; CHILDREN, 35 cents.**

Above prices admit both to Park and Grandstand. Part of Grandstand reserved for white people.

NOTE: We had to put up \$75 and expense of Park etc. or more than \$100 to get this Great Team to come to Austin and we trust the lovers of this great American Game will turn out.

Reduced Rates on all roads. Inquire of your agent early. If your agent has not been instructed, fourteen persons or more on one ticket can get one-half fare.

**C. L. EASON, Manager,**  
**A. MARSHALL,**  
President Athletic Association.

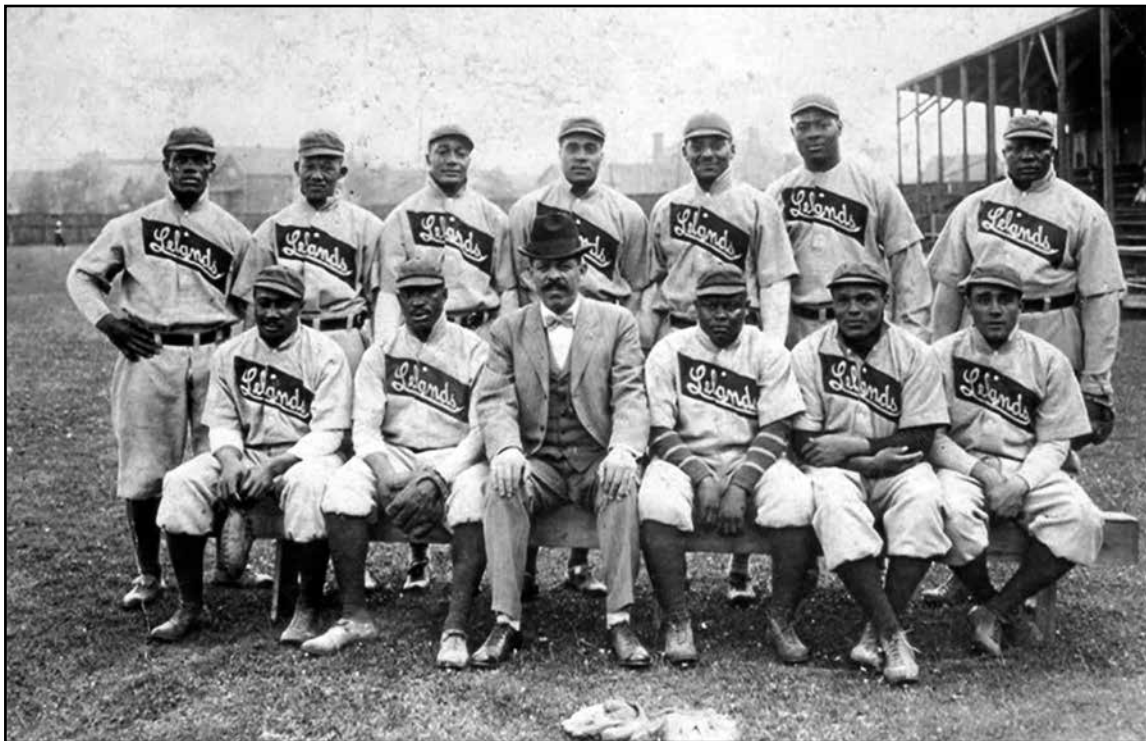
Leland Giants vs Sam Huston College (1909)  
Austin, Texas

hitting. Unfortunately, primary source research has not been able to substantiate any of Foster's claims. Box scores have been found for 85 games that the Leland Giants played during the 1908 season. In these 85 games for their 1908 season the Leland Giants did have an impressive record of 64-21 (.753). After the season Frank Leland held a lavish banquet for the players to show his appreciation for their efforts during the season.

Frank Leland's "Leland Giants" were a dominant force in baseball. Albert Spalding in his publication entitled Spalding Guide to Chicago Baseball that was published prior to the start of the 1909 season made the following comments about the play of the Leland Giants:

"The colored wonders the Leland Giants are in a class by themselves and their followers are justly entitled to be proud of them and claim whatever honors they think exist. For the greater part of the 1908 campaign the Leland Giants played ball as good as the major leagues and none of the white clubs were able to do more than make a good showing against them with the exception of Callahan's Logan Squares."

The players for the 1909 Leland Giants squad all met in Chicago on March 15<sup>th</sup> and left the Windy City on March 16<sup>th</sup> for their Southern barnstorming spring training tour. Their 4,465 mile trip took the team through the states of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama before returning to Chicago to open their season on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Some of the cities in which they played games during the tour included Austin, Birmingham, Chattanooga, Ft. Worth, Houston, Memphis, Nashville, San Antonio, St. Louis and Waco. The Birmingham Giants were the top team that the Leland Giants faced during their Southern tour. The team with some of the wives accompanying their husbands traveled by a private railroad car that included three waiters and two cooks. According to Rube Foster, the Leland Giants drew large crowds and went 15-0 (1.000) on their spring training barnstorming tour.



**Leland Giants (1909)**

(Standing left to right – **Pete Hill**, Andrew "Jap" Payne, George Wright, Walter Ball, Charles "Pat" Dougherty, Bill Gatewood and **Andrew "Rube" Foster**. Seated left to right – Dangerfield Talbert, Harry "Mike" Moore, **Frank C. Leland**, Bobby Winston, Sam Strothers and Nate Harris)

The Leland Giants were managed on the field by Rube Foster and Frank Leland was the General Manager of the team. They played their home games at both Logan Square Park and Gunther Park during the 1909 season. The Chicago Leland Giants were led by the hitting of Pete Hill (.354), Joe Green (.323), Jap Payne (.311) and Pete Booker (.291). Walter Ball was the ace of the pitching staff. Charles Dougherty, Rube Foster, Bill Gatewood, Arthur Hardy, Dicta Johnson (no first name) Lawson, (no first name) Lyons, Billy Norman and William Sloan also pitched for the Leland Giants during the 1909 season.

# **LELAND GIANTS CARRY OFF CHICAGO LEAGUE BUNTING**

**Colored Boys Winners by Good Lead—Dougherty Wins Last Game for His Team Against Gunthers.**

## **Standing of the Clubs.**

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Leland Giants..	.25	7	.800
Gunthers .....	.22	14	.611
Logan Squares.....	.24	15	.597
Anson's Colts...	.17	20	.459
Milwaukee .....	.11	26	.298
West Ends .....	3	23	.236

**Special to THE FREEMAN.**

CHICAGO, Ill.—Two sensational games, along with a reversal of form, marked the play in the Chicago Baseball League. Anson's Colts downed the Logan Squares in an eleven-inning contest, 2 to 1, the Gunthers lost to the Leland Giants by the same figures, while the West Ends, with "Chic" Fraser on the slab, trimmed Milwaukee, 9 to 1. The results of the day give the Leland Giants the league pennant, as neither the Gunthers nor the Logan Squares can catch them by winning to the finish with the Giants losing every game.

The Gunthers-Leland Giants game was won only after the Gunthers had made a desperate rally in the ninth, when they looked to have the game won.

Up to that inning Pat Dougherty had allowed Nissen's men but one hit. Meddy led off with a single. Gertenrich hit a hot one to Peter Hill that should have been a triple, but which was snared by the great center fielder. White and Dicke followed with hits, filling the bases. Schall dumped a bunt down to Johnson, who threw Meddy out at the plate, Booker making a play for Schall at first, but losing him, while Harry White, who tore all the way home from second, scored.

The Giants got their two runs in the fourth inning on some brilliant base running that outguessed the Gunthers fielders. With Hill on third and Booker at second and no outs, Rugar fanned Moore. Johnson laid down a bunt on a squeeze play that scored Hill easily. Rugar got the hitter, and Campion, who took the throw, never figured on Booker trying for home, and held the ball long enough to let the colored catcher follow Hill across the plate.

Score: R. H. E.  
Lelands . . . . .0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 \*—2 5 1  
Gunthers . . . . .0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1—1 4 0

Indianapolis Freeman

09-18-09

Besides their independent schedule, the Chicago Leland Giants also played in the Chicago City League during the 1909 season. They were the only black team in the "league." Anson's Colts, Gunthers, Logan Squares, Milwaukee White Sox and West Ends also played in the Chicago City League in 1909. The Leland Giants clinched the Chicago City League title with a 5-3 win over the Logan Squares. The Leland Giants went 31-9 (.775) in Chicago City League play. Logan's Square under Jimmie Callahan finished in second place with a 24-16 (.600) record. With their dominance of the "white" Chicago City League teams, Foster represented the Leland Giants as the "Greatest Colored Team in the World."

Tragedy struck the Leland Giants in early July of the 1909 season when they were playing the Cuban Stars. In the first inning of the game Rube Foster broke his leg. The injury kept him sidelined for several weeks. Within a week of the accident the Leland Giants hired ace pitcher Charles "Pat" Dougherty away from the West Baden Sprudels to shore up their starting rotation.

## **RUBE FOSTER BREAKS LEG.**

**Special to THE FREEMAN.**

CHICAGO, Ill.—The Leland Giants won their game with the Cuban Stars Monday, 13 to 6, at Gunther Park, but they bought their victory dearly with the loss of Rube Foster, who broke his leg in the first inning. Foster, the pitcher depended upon to land the colored team the pennant in the Chicago League, left the field unaided, but an examination in the clubhouse showed that a small bone in his left leg was broken, and it looks as if it will be at least late in August before he will be back in the game.

Indianapolis Freeman

07-17-09

In late July of 1909 the Leland Giants traveled to St. Paul, Minnesota to play the St. Paul Gophers in a five game series which was billed as a "championship series" in the local media. The St. Paul Gophers featured the play of "Candy Jim" Taylor and "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor. The Taylor brothers knew Foster and the Leland Giants from when they played them in spring training while they were both with the Birmingham Giants. The series was hard fought. Going into game five, both teams had won two games each. The Leland Giants sent Charles "Pat" Dougherty to the mound to face off against "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor. The Leland Giants scored the first run of the game in the third inning. Dougherty took a no-hitter into the eighth inning but unfortunately

he gave up three singles and a triple that enabled the St. Paul Gophers to take a 3-1 lead. Taylor shut down the Leland hitters in the ninth inning to give the Gophers the series victory. In true Rube Foster fashion, he down played the loss to the St. Paul Gophers as merely an exhibition series.

In mid August the Leland Giants traveled to Detroit to play the Philadelphia Giants (Colored Champions of the East) in a “championship series.” The Leland Giants went into the series with a significant disadvantage because Rube Foster who was one of their top pitchers and hitters had suffered a broken leg in July. Charles Dougherty pitched the Leland Giants to a 3-1 victory in game one. Unfortunately, the Philadelphia Giants took the next three games by the scores of 6-1, 9-1 and 12-2 to claim the “championship.”

**KANSAS CITY GIANTS**  
**BEST LELAND GIANTS**

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

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

									R.	H.	E.
Lelands	...	.0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2-5	12 1
K. C. K's	...	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-0	2 0

Batteries—Ball and Booker; Taylor and Tenny.

The Kansas City Giants retrieved their lost glory at Riverside Park Thursday afternoon by downing the Leland Giants of Chicago in the second game of the series. Twenty-eight hundred persons, who saw the game yesterday, agreed that it was the hardest fought contest that has been witnessed at Riverside. The score was 5 to 1. Lindsey held the Leland Giants down to three hits and he struck out sixteen men. For the Lelands, Dougherty lasted four innings. Ball, who was substituted, did effective work until the eighth inning. The score by innings:

Lelands .....	0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0	—1 4 1	R. H. E.
K. C. K.'s .....	0 0 0 1 0 0 0 2 0	—3 7 2	

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

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

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

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

	R.	H.	E.										
Lelands	. . . . .	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	-4	9	6
K. C. K's.	.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	"	-5	10	3

Batteries—Norman and Johnson; Wash-  
ington and Pettis.

At the end of the regular season the Leland Giants had a reported record of 54-18-1 (.750) in independent play and a record of 31-9 (.775) in the Chicago City League for the 1909 baseball season. As impressive as the Leland Giants record was for the 1909 season, three other teams also claimed to be the best in the West. These teams were the Kansas City Giants, St. Paul Gophers and the Birmingham Giants. Other top teams that played in the West during the 1909 season were Buxton Wonders, Illinois Giants, Indianapolis ABCs, Minneapolis Keystones and San Antonio Black Bronchos.

In September of 1909 the Leland Giants traveled to Kansas City, Kansas to play the Tobe Smith's Kansas City Giants in a three game series. The Kansas City Giants were an extremely strong team who had reportedly won forty (40) straight games on their home field. The Leland Giants took the first game by a score of 5-0. Kansas City pitcher, Robert Lindsay, took control of game two. He struck out sixteen (16) Leland batters and led Kansas City to a 3-1 victory. With the series tied at one game apiece, an overflow crowd jammed into Riverside Stadium in Kansas City. There were so many fans in the stadium that a portion of the grandstand collapsed and sent hundreds of people falling to the ground. Fortunately no one was seriously injured. The Giants took game three of the series by a score of 5-4 and the Leland Giants went down in defeat to another strong opponent.

The Leland Giants last major series of the 1909 season occurred in mid to late October, when the Leland Giants played a three game series against the Chicago Cubs who had just finished the season in second place in the National League with 104 wins. The Leland Giants were very competitive against their Major League opponents; however, the Cubs took all three games by the scores of 4-1, 6-5 and 1-0.

## Leland Giants vs Kanas City Giants

Indianapolis Freeman

09-04-09

After losing key series to the St. Paul Gophers and then the Kansas City Giants, not to mention being beaten in three straight games by the Chicago Cubs, it is hard to see Rube Foster's logic that the Leland Giants were the "Greatest Colored Team in the World." They were an exceptional good team with an excellent won-loss record for the 1909 season, but it would be hard to say they were the "greatest."

#### FRANK C. LELAND RESIGNS.

**Withdraws His Connection with the Famous Leland Giants.**

Special to THE FREEMAN.

CHICAGO, Ill.—Frank Leland, manager of the Leland Giants and for several years the owner of that club, resigned from it last week and incorporated a new team, which he will enter the local circuit next year under the name of Leland's Chicago Giants. Up to this year Leland owned the club alone, but the team was sold to a stock company and for several months the former manager has had but little say in the management of the team. "Rube" Foster being the active head. Leland formed the club several years ago when he split up partnership with W. S. Peters,

who owned the Chicago Union Giants with Leland. Leland will endeavor to get a franchise in the Chicago League next year.

Mr. Leland writes us the following in regard to his resignation as president and a member of the board of directors of the Leland Giants Baseball Club: Sporting Editor of THE FREEMAN:

Sire—Since writing you I have resigned as a member of the board of directors and the presidency of the baseball team known as the Leland Giants, only to take a similar position in a new corporation known as Leland's Chicago Giants Baseball Club, or in short "Chicago Giants." and I have already opened offices at 2551 State street, and my first official business was to sign for the new big colored team the famous boy wonder, Wm. Lindsey, who pitched against the Leland Giants at Kansas City, striking out sixteen men, allowing the Leland only one hit. In leaving my associates in the Leland Giants I go wishing them nothing but success, but as every one knows in baseball there is nothing but rivalry, and as I have worked very hard for my former associates' success and every follower of the national pastime knows that they have had nothing but success under my reign. I am going to put forth my strongest effort to make in my new team the "Chicago Giants" the world's greatest baseball club. I will scour the whole country and pick nothing but the best players, and the best we must have for the new Chicago Giants. It will in all probability be the highest salaried colored baseball club in the world. I am going to make arrangements to have the players report at New Orleans, La., March 15, and there put in two weeks at hard practice, then start a tour of the Southern cities, making such places as Birmingham, Mobile, Memphis, Chattanooga and other cities en route home to Chicago by May 4, when we shall start our Northern campaign and in all probability as a member of the Chicago League.

Just before closing I would like to comment on Mr. James Smith and his baseball article last week. In one particular remark, when he claimed Walter Ball as being the greatest colored pitcher during the past season, I heartily endorse it, and can frankly say Walter Ball's brilliant work as a fielder and pitcher was practically responsible for the Leland's winning the Chicago League pennant. Thanking you for the space and time that I have taken to announce the coming of my new big team, the Chicago Giants, I am, yours truly,  
FRANK C. LELAND.

#### Internal Conflict Strikes the Leland Giants

Ever since Leland hired Rube Foster in 1907 and Rube became the traveling manager of the Leland Giants, Frank Leland's control, influence and power over the baseball team had significantly diminished. Going into the 1909 season Leland was no longer the President; that role had been assumed by Beauregard Mosley. Frank Leland was still the general manager but with what appears as only limited authority.

During the 1909 season the rift between Rube Foster and Frank Leland escalated. Even though Frank Leland was the President of the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association (LGBBAA), it was Beauregard Mosley who was the real driving force behind the venture. In an effort to regain control of the LGBBAA and the Leland Giants baseball team, Frank Leland focused his efforts on trying to take back control of the baseball team from Rube Foster. From the time he became manager of the Leland Giants, Rube Foster seemed to be undermining Frank Leland. Some of the things that Foster did that caused tension and widened the gap between Foster and Leland were:

1. Foster released and replaced virtually all of Leland's former players by the start of his second season managing the Leland Giants.
2. Foster showed up Leland by personally guaranteeing players' salaries. Leland had paid players out of gate receipts.
3. Foster convinced Leland and LGBBAA management to allow him to take over scheduling the bookings and assuming business responsibilities for the baseball team.
4. Foster was quick to take all the credit for the team winning, getting local and national attention and most importantly of all making money.

As the tension between Leland and Foster got worse, Beauregard Mosley sided with Foster. When the issue was brought to the investors, they felt that it was in the best interest of the team and the organization as a whole to retain Rube Foster as the team's manager. The struggle for control of the Leland Giants culminated with Frank Leland resigning from the club in September of 1909 and selling his shares in the LGBBAA to an investment company owned by Beauregard Mosley.

Frank Leland Resigns

Indianapolis Freeman

10-02-09



## Frank Leland Forms the Chicago Giants

After leaving the Leland Giants, Frank started a new corporation in October of 1909 by the name of “Leland’s Chicago Giants Baseball Club” and Rube Foster took over full control of the “original” Leland Giants. Frank Leland teamed with Major Robert R. Jackson and Alvin Garrett to form a new team that they originally called the “Chicago Leland Giants.” Leland was the President and General Manager while Jackson was the team’s club secretary. When the plans for the 1910 season were announced, former player Dave Wyatt was introduced as the team’s traveling manager.

One of the reasons that Frank Leland used to claim the right to use the name “Leland Giants” was that most of the players on his 1910 Chicago Giants roster had been with the Leland Giants the year before. Nine players from the 1909 Leland Giants team joined the Chicago Giants to play for Frank Leland and only six players from the 1909 Leland Giants team players stayed with Rube Foster’s 1910 Leland Giants squad.

Foster’s team used the name the “Chicago Leland Giants” while Frank Leland’s team was referred to as “Leland’s Chicago Giants.” Without any question this caused significant confusion with baseball fans. It was not uncommon for fans to have to wait till they got to the ball park to see which team was going to be playing.

In March of 1910, Frank Leland sued the Beauregard Mosley and the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association (LGBBAA) for copyright damages in the amount of \$ 100,000. The Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association countersued Frank Leland and took the Leland’s Chicago Giants Baseball Club to court to settle the issue legally and prevent Frank Leland from using the name “Leland Giants.” On April 23, 1910 the Broad Ax reported that in a complicated legal battle in court that the LGBBAA and Beauregard Mosley had won the right to use the name “Leland Giants” and at the same time had blocked Frank Leland from using the name “Leland Giants.” The Chicago Leland Giants then officially became the Chicago Giants.

The 1910 Chicago Giants under the ownership of Frank Leland were managed by Nate Harris. They played their home games at White Sox Park, Red Sox Park and Logan Square Park.



**Chicago Giants (1910)**

(Standing left to right – **Candy Jim Taylor**, Bobby Winston, **Frank Leland**, Charles “Joe” Green and Dangerfield Talbert. Middle row left to right – Walter Ball, Nate Harris and Mike Moore. Bottom row left to right – George “Chappie” Johnson, Bill Pettus, **Smokey Joe Williams** and Dick Wallace.)

THE FREEMAN, AN ILLUSTRATED COLORED NEWSPAPER.

**COURT SAYS FRANK LELAND  
MUST FIND NEW NAME.**

**Rube Foster's Team Can Only Use the  
Name "Leland Giants."**

By Staff Correspondent.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 28.—On Wednesday morning, April 26, the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association, through the attorney and secretary, B. F. Mosely, won a signal victory in Judge Baldwin's court when the following order was entered:

State of Illinois, county of Cook, ss.:  
Circuit Court of Cook county.

Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association vs. Frank Leland's Chicago Giants Baseball Association, Frank Leland et al.

The motion of the complainant coming on to be heard upon the amended bill of complaint, and the answer of all the defendants, except the Chicago City League thereto, and it appearing from the answer of said defendants that they and each of them have, in and by their said answer, disclaimed any right in intention to use the name "Leland Giants" as the name of their baseball club or of advertising or being known to the public or anyone by the name "Leland Giants," and said defendants averring and asserting in their answer that the legal and incorporated name of the defendant baseball club is the Frank Leland's Chicago Giants Baseball Club, and it is usually known by the name of "Chicago Giants," and that Frank C. Leland is the manager of said Chicago Giants, and it being the desire if all the parties hereto that there should be no confusion as to the name or names of the two different baseball clubs.

It is therefore ordered that hereafter no person or persons acting for the defendants shall in any wise use the name "Leland Giants" as the name of the defendant club or feature the name "Leland" in connection therewith, etc.

This disposes of the bill filed to restrain the use of the words "Leland Giants" by others than the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association and assures the public that there is but one Leland

Giants baseball team, and that Andrew Foster is the captain and manager of that team, which will play ball at its new park, 69th and Halsted streets, beginning May 15.

**FRANK LELAND'S NEW TEAM.**

In looking over the list that Mr. Frank Leland has already assigned to his new baseball team, we find a line-up hard to beat anywhere in the country. In fact, he has secured of the Leland Giants two of its strongest pitchers in Walter Ball and Billy Norman, and goes them one better by securing "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor of the St. Paul Gophers. What a trio! You couldn't improve on it unless it were possible to add the master of them all—Mr. Rube Foster, who it is said, will manage a team for Louisville next season. Such a staff of pitchers as Mr. Leland has obtained looks like a championship walk-away for his team in the Chicago City League. But the pitchers are not all that there will be to this new team, for it comprises some of the very best in all positions in the country. Just think of this set from the old Leland team: "Mike" Moore, shortstop; "Bobby" Winston, Joe Green, outfielders; "Rat" Johnson, catcher, and "Danger" Talbert, utility infielder. Then there are three of the St. Paul Gophers' strongest men engaged, in the persons of "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor, a pitcher; Jimmy Taylor, third base, and Felix Wallace, also a third-sacker. In securing such men as

these, Frank Leland displays great judgment, as every man of them is a star player. There should be no dispute in the winning of the championship if Frank Leland is to have a team composed of the players mentioned. Mr. Leland is keeping up the reputation that he long ago established, in his new undertaking, as one of the foremost baseball authorities, and we feel that he is to be congratulated.

Indianapolis Freeman

10-27-09



Frank Leland put together a very strong team for the 1910 season. The starting roster for the 1910 Chicago Giants was as follows:

#### Chicago Giants (1910)

Position	Player	Position	Player
1B	Robert "Bobby" Marshall/Bill Pettus	OF	Clarence "Bobby" Winston
2B	Nathan "Nate" Harris	OF	Charles "Joe" Green
SS	George Wright/ Bee Selden	OF	Harry "Mike" Moore
3B	Candy Jim Taylor/Dangerfield Talbert/Dick Wallace		
C	George "Chappie" Johnson/Bill Pettus	P	Smokey Joe Williams

Smokey Joe Williams was the ace of the pitching staff. Walter Ball, Horace Jenkins, Billy Norman and "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor also pitched for Frank Leland in 1910.



**Frank Leland  
Joins Spring Training**

Indianapolis Freeman  
04-30-10

Frank Leland's Chicago Giants players reported for duty in Chicago on March 18<sup>th</sup> and left on their spring training tour of the South on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first stop on the tour was in Hot Springs (AR) where they spent two days. Other cities that they visited on the tour included Ft. Worth, Dallas, Hillsboro (TX), Houston, Galveston, Prairie View (TX), New Orleans, Mobile, Moss Point (MS), Pensacola, Birmingham, Hot Springs, Montgomery, Jackson (TN) and Paducah (KY). The Chicago Giants travelled in a special Pullman sleeper car for the Southern barnstorming tour. After a very successful spring training tour of the South, the Chicago Giants returned home to Chicago to start the regular season which opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> when they played the Donohue Red Sox. Most of the 1910 season was focused on playing an independent schedule with most of their home games played at Red Sox Park which was located at 61<sup>st</sup> Street and Lawrence Avenue.

The Leland's Chicago Giants (team name listed in Frank Leland's 1910 media guide) also played in the prestigious Chicago City League during the 1910 season when they were selected over Rube Foster's Leland Giants. When Frank Leland left the Leland Giants both Rube Foster who ran the Leland Giants and Frank Leland whose new team was the Chicago Giants laid claim to the Chicago City League championship pennant flag. The Chicago City League officials ruled that the flag should go to Frank Leland's team. In the middle of March the Chicago Giants had a special flag raising ceremony at Auburn Park to celebrate the championship. Other teams that played in the Chicago City League during the 1910 season were Donahue's Red Sox, Logan Squares, Rogers Park, Spaldings and West Ends. The West Ends (21-8) won the Chicago City League title and the Chicago Giants (18-12) finished the season in second place.

In 1909 the St. Paul Gophers had ended any hope that the Leland Giants had of a world's championship. Frank Leland got his revenge in July and again in September of 1910 when his Chicago Giants took two series from a

very strong St. Paul Gophers team. The first series was played in St. Paul at Lexington Park and the second series was played in Preston (MN). Leland's Chicago Giants won seven of the eight games played.

One of the highlights of the 1910 season for the Chicago Giants was a series they played in August against Jimmy Callahan's All Stars. The first five games of the eight game series were reported in the newspaper. The Chicago Giants went 3-1-1 (.750) in these five games.

Another highlight of the season occurred in June when "Steel Arm" Johnny Taylor pitched a no-hitter against the Nebraska Indians. Taylor struck out 10 and walked only one batter in the Chicago Giants 9-0 win of the visitors.



#### Chicago Giants (1910)

(Standing left to right – Walter Ball, Mike Moore, **Candy Jim Taylor**, **Frank Leland**, Bobby Winston, Charles "Joe" Green" and Dangerfield Talbert. Seated left to right – Nate Harris, George "Chappie" Johnson, **Smokey Joe Williams** and Dick Wallace.)

Box scores have been found for thirty-two (32) games played by the 1910 Chicago Giants played outside the Chicago City League. They went 22-9-1 (.710) in these thirty-two (32) outings. Combining the box scores that have been found for their independent games with their record for Chicago League play, the Chicago Giants had a very respectable record of 40-21-1 (.645). According to Gary Ashwill and his Negro League research team the Chicago Giants ended the season as apparently the third best team in the West in 1910. Rube Foster's Leland Giants led by the hitting of Pete Hill and the pitching of Frank "The Red Ant" Wickware were considered the best team in the West for the 1910 season with a self-reported won-loss record of 123-6 (.954). It is important to keep in mind that the Leland Giants record was reported by Rube Foster and quite often his version of a situation and the "real" truth were very often significantly different. During the season Rube Foster had a standing offer of a \$ 3,000 wager to any team who could defeat his Leland Giants. He did not get any takers.

The 1910 Chicago Giants season represented a real comeback in the baseball world for Frank Leland.

## **The Chicago Giants Travel to California**

Over the winter of 1910-11 Frank Leland's Chicago Giants traveled to the West Coast to play in the California Winter League. During their winter league season in California the Chicago Giants were referred to as the "Leland Giants" by the California press. Besides the Leland Giants there were three other "white" teams that played in the "league." These three "white" teams were San Diego, McCormicks and Doyles. When Frank Leland's Giants team traveled to California for the 1910-11 winter season this transformed the California Winter League from essentially a lower level minor league to a league with credibility. The fact that many Pacific Coast League players and several Major League players participated in the 1910-11 winter league season in California also helped elevate the "league's" stature.

Smokey Joe Williams (.381), Bobby Winston (.345) and Mike Moore (.291) led the team in hitting during their stay in California. Smokey Joe Williams was also the team's ace pitcher during the California Winter League season. He led the "league" games pitched (7), complete games (6), innings pitched (60), strikeouts (78) and shutouts (2). Smokey Joe also compiled a won-loss record of 4-1 (.800) during the season.

The highlight of the 1910-11 California Winter League season for Leland Giants occurred on January 7, 1911 when Smokey Joe Williams faced off against Doyles. Smokey Joe lived up to his moniker, striking out 19 batters, limiting Doyles to just three hits and leading the Giants to a 11-0 shutout win.

Records are incomplete for the 1910-11 California Winter League season. From the box scores that have been found for the teams that played in the "league" during the season, the following won-loss records have been recorded: San Diego (7-4), Leland Giants (10-7-2), Mc Cormicks (12-5-1) and Doyles (2-14-1).

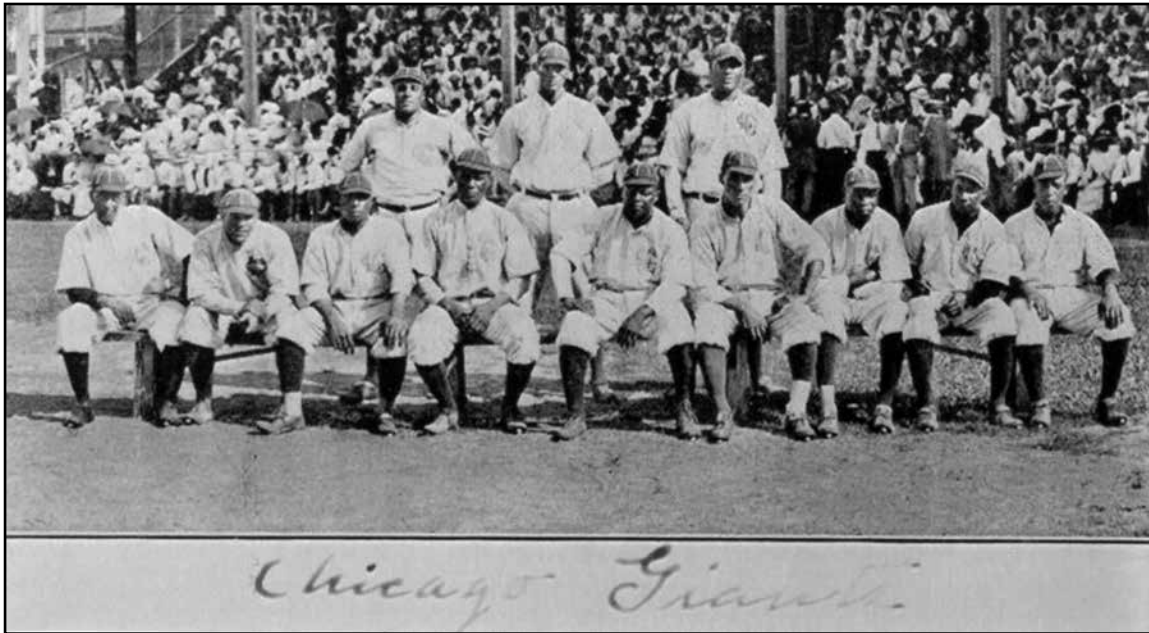
After the California Winter League season had concluded play, the Giants barnstormed throughout northern California, Washington, Oregon and into Victoria (Canada). The Giants returned to Chicago to start preparations for their regular 1911 season after their barnstorming tour of the Pacific Northwest.

It is unclear if Frank Leland accompanied the team for all or part of their winter season trip to the West Coast. It seems highly unlikely that Frank could have taken off for several months from all of his business, government job and other responsibilities in Chicago. The most likely scenario is that Nate Harris who Leland relied on as his traveling manager/team captain during the regular 1910 season managed the team for their winter season.

## **The Giants Return to Chicago**

Before the start of the 1911 season Frank Leland's Chicago Giants roster underwent numerous changes. First, Nate Harris did not return as the team's traveling manager and was replaced by Bill Pettus. Leland also changed his home ball field to Schorling Park. Secondly, Nate Harris (CF), Horace Jenkins (P), Billy Norman (P), Steel Arm Johnny Taylor (P), Dick Wallace (3B) and George Wright (SS) were not signed or left the team voluntarily. To replace these players, Frank Leland signed Jesse Barber (3B), Sherman Barton (CF), Bill Gatewood (P), Grant "Homerun" Johnson (SS), Bill Lane (3B) and William Parks (SS). The only holdovers from the 1910 squad were Walter Ball (P), Joe Green (OF), Mike Moore (3B), Bill Pettus (C/Mgr), Smokey Joe Williams (P) and Bobby Winston (OF).

The Chicago Giants opened the season on a real high note in mid-May when behind the shut out pitching of Smokey Joe Williams, they defeated the Leland Giants by a score of 10-0 at Normal Park in Chicago. From newspaper articles it appears that the Chicago Giants had an excellent season in 1911. On June 24<sup>th</sup> the Indianapolis Freeman reported a twenty (20) game winning streak that they had from mid to late May to mid-June.



**Chicago Giants (1911)**

There were four major black teams in Chicago that competed for fans and box office revenues during the 1911 baseball season. First, there was the Chicago Giants who were owned and managed by Frank Leland. Then there were the Chicago American Giants who were owned and managed by Rube Foster. Before the start of the 1911 season, Rube Foster parted ways with the Leland Giants and formed his own team which he named the “Chicago American Giants.” The third team that played in the Chicago area was W.S. Peters’ Chicago Union Giants. Then there were the “old” Leland Giants who were controlled by Beauregard Mosley and managed by Burton Mosley. Mosley’s team was by far the weakest of the four and the only player of consequence that they had was pitcher Frank Wickware and that was only on a part-time basis.

Even though Leland and Foster had parted ways and each now had their own teams, the feud between the two continued. Foster continued to complain in the press that Leland was continually trying to undermine him and his team. In a long and rambling expose that appeared in the Chicago Defender after the conclusion of the regular 1911 baseball season, Rube Foster wrote the following about Frank Leland:

“The downfall of colored baseball in Chicago and throughout the South lies at the feet of Frank C. Leland who is a mere accident in baseball... I (Rube Foster) accomplished more in one season than he did in a lifetime.”

The article only showed how low Foster could stoop and his total lack of professionalism. Foster’s arrogance and self-serving attitude as expressed in the Chicago Defender did nothing to bolster his stature in Chicago baseball.

The Chicago Giants and the Chicago American Giants did meet in what was billed in the media as a “World’s Championship Series.” The series opened at Schorling Park in Chicago in early July. The media also dubbed the series as the “Battle of the Giants.” There were eleven games played in the series. The Chicago American Giants won seven and the Chicago Giants won four. Even worse than losing to Rube Foster, Frank Leland had to pay Rube \$ 500 for a side bet that they had made on the series.

According to an article that appeared in the Indianapolis Freeman on October 21st, the Chicago Giants ended their baseball season by participating in the “Athletic Field Day” which was promoted by Beauregard Mosley and held at Schorling Park in Chicago. The event was held on October 12<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Dearborn Center Day Nursery. It included three wrestling matches, a series of field day sports and a baseball game between Frank Leland’s Chicago Giants and Rube

Foster's Chicago American Giants. In the baseball skills competition the following individuals claimed victory: bunting the ball (first base run) – Sam Strothers (Chicago Giants), circling the bases – Pearl Webster (Leland Giants), fungo hitting – Bill Lindsay (Chicago American Giants) and long distance throwing - Frank Wickware (Chicago American Giants). In the highlight of the “Athletic Field Day” event, the Chicago Giants beat the Chicago American Giants by a score of 7-5. Walter Ball took the win for the Chicago Giants and Rube Foster was credited with the loss for his American Giants. Beating his nemesis Rube Foster was the fitting end to the season and Frank Leland's baseball career.

No final season records have been found for the 1911 Chicago Giants but from newspaper reports they appear to have played excellent ball during the season. The Indianapolis Freeman reported on June 24<sup>th</sup> that the Chicago Giants had just won their 20<sup>th</sup> straight game. Box scores and line scores have been found for forty (40) games that the Chicago Giants played during the 1911 season. Their record in these forty games was a remarkable 36-4 (.900)

The 1911 baseball season was Frank Leland's last in professional baseball. He obviously went out as a winner with a team of which he could be very proud.

On April 18, 1912 the New York Age reported that Frank Leland “would not field a team for the upcoming season.” The following factors led to Leland leaving black baseball:

1. Leland lost his lease on his home field at 61<sup>st</sup> Street and St. Lawrence Avenue at the end of the 1910 season. The Chicago Giants had been a traveling team in 1911, but did play some home dates in Chicago at Schorling Park.
2. Frank's financial partner, Robert Jackson, left baseball to pursue a career in politics.
3. The loss of Jackson's financial backing made it difficult for the Giants to pay high salaries to their star players like Smokey Joe Williams, Walter Ball and Bill Pettus.
4. Instead of pursuing his baseball career with the Chicago Giants, Frank Leland decided to run for Cook County Commissioner.
5. Lastly, Frank Leland's health had continually deteriorated over the years.

It appears that Charles “Joe” Green took over the Chicago Giants when Frank Leland left baseball.

### **Life Outside of Baseball**

Frank Leland's success on the baseball diamond made him a very well-known and popular person in Chicago. He also became extremely well connected in the business and government community. During his career, Frank Leland held the following government positions in Chicago:

- Clerk in the Criminal Court
- Clerk in the Circuit Court
- Clerk in the Board of Review
- Deputy Sheriff
- Member of the Board of County Commissioners in Cook County

Amazingly, Frank Leland seemed to be able to manage several full time government jobs and the demands of owning and running a first class baseball team all at the same time.

### **Passing of a Legend**

Frank Leland passed away on November 14, 1914 at the age of forty-five (45) at his home located at 2348 Dearborn Street in Chicago. His death certificate lists his cause of death as “aortic insufficiency due to exhaustion.” He was laid to rest at the Lincoln Cemetery (Lot 9 Section 1) in Blue Island, Illinois.

## Playing Career

### Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1887	Washington Capital City	National League of Colored Baseball Clubs
1887	Unions	Independent
1888-1889	Chicago Unions	Independent

## Traveling Manager

### Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1896-1900	Chicago Unions	Independent

## Owner – General Manager – Managerial Career

### Regular Season:

Year	Team	League
1901-1904	Chicago Union Giants	Independent
1905-1906	Leland Giants	Independent (Owner/Manager)
1907-1909	Leland Giants	Independent (President/ General Manager)
1910-1911	Chicago Giants	Independent

### Winter Season:

1910-11	Leland Giants (Chicago Giants)	California Winter League
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**Leland Giants (1905)**

(Standing left to right- Dell Mathews, George Taylor, **Frank Leland**, Dave Wyatt and Bruce Petway.

Kneeling left to right – Charles “Joe” Green, Walter Ball, Andrew Campbell, Dangerfield Talbert.

Bottom row left to right – James Smith and unknown)

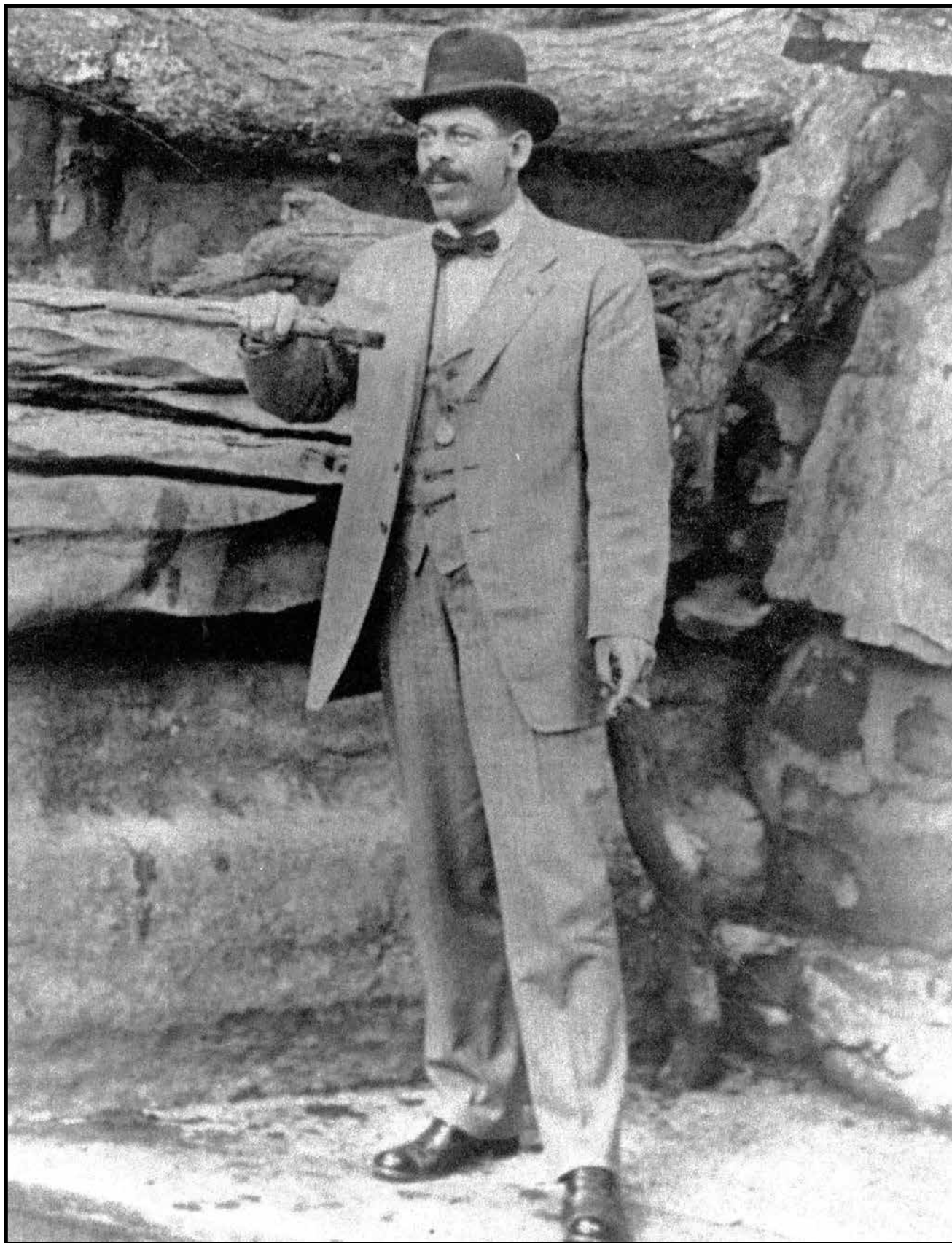
## Assessing Frank Leland's Career

- Frank Leland was one of the early pioneers in black baseball in the United States. He is considered by most historians as the premier owner and manager of the first decade of the 1900's.
- He is credited with helping form and manage the following black baseball teams: Chicago Unions, Leland Giants and Chicago Giants.
- Leland was excellent at evaluating and signing top baseball talent. During his baseball career, Frank Leland signed the following high profile players for his teams: Walter Ball, Harry Buchner, Andrew "Rube" Foster, Joe Green, Nate Harris, Pete Hill, William Horn, Harry Hyde, Grant "Homerun" Johnson, Bill Lindsay, Clarence Lytle, William "Bill" Monroe, Harry "Mike" Moore and Dangerfield Talbert.
- Leland was an excellent field manager and general manager. He consistently fielded winning ball clubs. Some of his top clubs were :

Year	Team	Record/Title
1900	Chicago Unions	Colored World's Champion
1902	Chicago Union Giants	Colored Champions of the West
1905	Chicago Union Giants	112-10 (.918) Colored Champions of the West
1907	Leland Giants	110-10 (.917) Chicago City League title Colored Champions of the West
1908	Leland Giants	64-21 (.753) Chicago City League title Colored Champions of West Colored Champions of World
1909	Leland Giants	54-18-1 (Independent) 31-9 (Chicago City League) Chicago City League title

- After breaking his ties with Rube Foster, Beauregard Mosley and the Leland Giants Baseball and Amusement Association, Frank Leland went on to establish the Chicago Giants which he owned and ran during the 1910 and 1911 seasons. Our current research indicates that the Chicago Giants had exceptionally good seasons under Leland. Current research credits them with a record of 40-21-1 (.645) in 1910 and 36-4 (.900) in 1911. The 1911 team also had a 20 game winning streak. Frank Leland left baseball when he was at the top of his game.
- He was a visionary who believed strongly in the need for a national league comprised of black baseball teams. Over the winter of 1907-08, Leland made a concentrated effort to form the "National Colored League of Professional Ball Clubs."
- Frank was a very hard worker who more often than not held down at least two full time jobs at the same time. An excellent example of this is in 1907 when he held what amounted to four full time jobs (Cook County Commissioner, General Manager of Leland Giants, manager of the skating rink at the Chateau de la Plaisance and lastly worked diligently to organize a new baseball league) all at the same time.
- During his career Frank Leland was one of the most respected individuals in Chicago baseball, business, government and politics.
- Unfortunately for black baseball, Frank Leland's career was cut short when he passed away at the early age of forty-five (45).





**Frank C. Leland**  
Black Baseball Pioneer