

The Donaldson Network

It can be done...

We have found more information than anyone thought possible!



On July 25, 2008 the Donaldson Network was recognized by the Society of American Baseball Researchers (SABR) Negro Leagues Committee at the 11th Annual Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference as the recipient of the John Coates Next Generation Award for exemplary research on John Donaldson's career. This award is to be shared with everyone who maintains the fire to return John Donaldson to his proper place in history. Currently we are over 400 members strong!



Numbers Update

Together we have uncovered over 1400 games that John Donaldson performed in. There are still many more games out there.

Newspaper accounts still remain undiscovered.

To date Donaldson Network researchers have uncovered an astounding 346 victories, placing us short of our 2008 goal of 350.

Hundreds of wins could be out there waiting to be discovered.

We can eclipse the 350 win mark as planned by finding four more wins.

With just over a month remaining, will the four victories be found?

Visit the Donaldson Network on the internet and look under the "Games Missing" tab.

Check the web for possibilities in your area!

johndonaldson.bravehost.com



CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS BY DONALDSON NETWORK MEMBERS

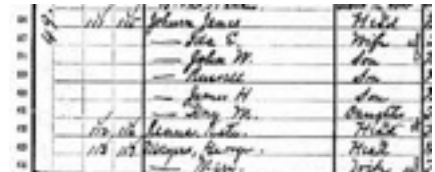


1926 LISMORE (MINNESOTA) GOPHERS - MARTY

Marty ([email](#)) is working on the 1926 season John Donaldson spent in southwestern Minnesota. Genealogy is being conducted for each of Donaldson's teammates, and stories are being documented and saved. Biographies of catcher E.L. Corwin and outfielder E.W. (Jack) Thompson are currently being assembled. Letters are being written and mysteries solved by the Donaldson Network, working together.

DONALDSON FAMILY GENEALOGY - LILA

Lila ([email](#)) a seasoned genealogist and researcher has uncovered the census materials for both the Donaldson family and John's immediate relatives. She has documented aspects of the life of John Donaldson that were previously lost to history. Donaldson Network researchers continue to fill in the key personal information seeking Donaldson's survivors.



THE ALL NATIONS TEAM - STEVE

Steve ([email](#)) is working with the known game accounts for the All Nations team 1912-1917 and preparing a chapter for the upcoming reissue of SABR's Negro Leagues Book. The All Nation's traveled throughout the upper midwest and scattered game accounts in hundreds of newspapers in towns large and small. We continue to seek accounts of this influential ball-club and Donaldson's role in bringing black-ball to the masses.

JOHN DONALDSON AND THE MONEY??? - TIM

The Color Line drawn around organized baseball forced John Donaldson to earn his living traveling around the country. The Donaldson Network has been attempting to find out how he was paid. Speculation that a well paid black man was moving around the country with large sums of money would have made Donaldson a target for thieves. Tim ([email](#)) a member of the Donaldson Network and historic banking enthusiast has been assisting our effort attempting to shed light on exactly how Donaldson was paid. We are actively seeking the answer to this question. If you, or someone you know can help us answer this question please let us know.



WHIRLWIND PITCHER.

Man in the Box For The Tennessee Rats a Wonder.

The Tennessee Rats who played here Sunday and Monday won one game and lost the second. Sunday the score was 2 to 0 in their favor and on Monday the score was 5

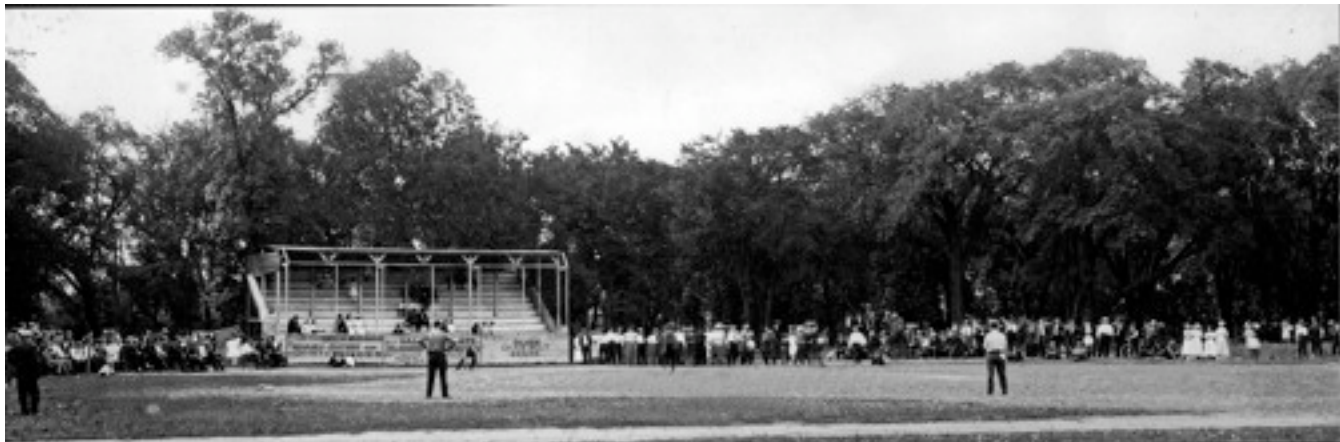
THE TENNESSEE RATS - TODD

In the past year much of our attention has been focused on Donaldson's 1911 season. It would not be long until he was known as "The World's Greatest Colored Pitcher". Todd ([email](#)) scoured libraries seeking information on this pivotal season. Reports say Donaldson was 41-3, in 1911. So far we have found and verified only 14 victories. Leaving some 30 games left to be discovered. Donaldson Network researchers are looking for help discovering games that people have said could not be found.

Visit johndonaldson.bravehost.com for more details.

PHOTOS OF INTEREST - SYLVIA & PAT

Recently, photos from the era of John Donaldson have been discovered and sent to the Donaldson Network. We continue to seek era related photos from 1900 to 1935 from places that Donaldson played. Here are a couple of examples of photos that we are seeking:



SYLVIA - BRECKENRIDGE, MINNESOTA - *ISLAND PARK 1913*

Sylvia ([email](#)) says Island Park was *the* place to be taken in an afternoon ball game. Crowds numbering in the thousands saw John Donaldson star on ballparks across the country.



PAT - STAPLES, MINNESOTA - *STAPLES BASEBALL TEAM 1920'S*

Pat ([email](#)) names all of the players shown in this classic photo. Many of these players formed the opposition to the powerhouse Bertha Fishermen who dominated semi-pro baseball in the 1920's in Minnesota and were led by John Donaldson. Opposition team photos are a budding area of research for the Donaldson Network. We have assembled vast lists of Donaldson's teammates and opposition, but only recently has focus shifted to discovering actual photos of these men. Baseball players who challenged Donaldson were sometimes either coming from or going to the major leagues. A list of known cities where Donaldson and his teams played in or against is available on the web at johndonaldson.bravehost.com under the "Teams" tab.

2008 In Review:



*Pete Gorton and Sam Sinke at the grave of John Donaldson.
photo by Jeremy Krock*

It's not even the end of '08 but we thought it would be important to look back and review some of the highlights of the year:

- The Donaldson Network grew! An already impressive group of authors, researchers, historians and even a few baseball novices began '08 seeking information across the country. Our expanding number of volunteer researchers increased 25% with our total number approaching 500. A sincere thank you to all who continue to seek when called upon and those who are always there with encouraging words. We have built the Donaldson Network into something extraordinary and each of you are to be thanked and congratulated.

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- The 8th No-Hitter thrown by John Donaldson was uncovered in Centerville, IA
 - A death certificate was acquired ending years of speculation to the cause of Donaldson's death
 - Pete Gorton receives Coates Memorial Award on behalf of the Donaldson Network at the 2008 Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues Conference in Chicago, IL
 - Census records were found for the Donaldson family! The Donaldson family was improperly entered in the rolls of two separate census accounts, once as the name "Johnson" and another time with the name "Donison". These mistakes made this vital data very difficult to find... until now!
 - Reports surface of a Donaldson 31 Strikeout game thrown in Iowa in 1911 as a member of Brown's Tennessee Rats
 - John Donaldson was featured at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, MO., as a part of their Black History Month celebration
 - The Donaldson Network was the featured topic on Sports Rap with Kwame McDonald on SPNN (St. Paul Neighborhood News)



- Samuel John Gorton, the newest member of the Donaldson Network, was born October 1, 2008. He loves his mommy, milk and baseball