



The Donaldson Network

Always Looking!

2011 -- a year for Milestones!

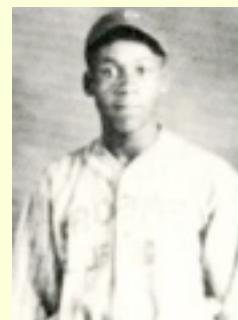
2012 brings notable milestones we have accomplished together, and several others that we have brought closer to fruition.

This issue will highlight some pivotal findings in the rediscovery of *The Greatest Colored Pitcher in the World*, including cyber explosions, strangers' contributions, locating John Donaldson's baseball birthplace, and finding Donaldson's rookie card 70 years late. Also read about the conquering of an eBay auction by The Donaldson Network, more great testimonials, a call for Skype users, a close shave and--if that's not enough -- John Donaldson sings!

Take a few moments to see what has been happening with The Donaldson Network. Follow the exciting information that has been uncovered, and think of ways that you can continue to contribute to the effort. Pick out a game from the "[Missing Dates](#)," page and figure out HOW to find it (we'd be glad to help.) There are many areas that need assistance and we are **Always Looking** for more John Donaldson information!

2011 Tweed Webb Award!

The Negro Leagues Committee of the Society of Baseball Researchers (SABR) recognized the Donaldson Network with a 2011 Normal "Tweed" Webb Award at the Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues Conference in Indianapolis, IN. The award is named for the legendary St. Louis sports writer who famously claimed, "I've seen them all." when asked which great Negro Leaguers he had watched. The award is given to researchers who best exemplify Webb's dedication, commitment, passion, pride and excellence in researching the Negro Leagues!

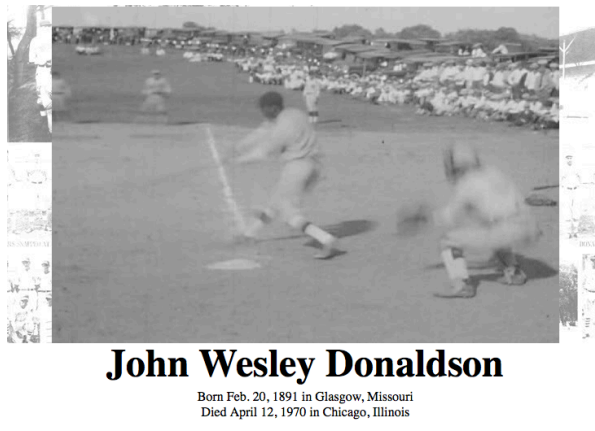


"Tweed" Webb listed John Donaldson as the 4th greatest black pitcher in history. Incidentally Donaldson remains the ONLY pitcher in Webb's top 6 NOT inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame!

Web Site Update

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO WEB SITE

We have been developing the presence of John Donaldson on the Internet since 2006. Our vision is that johndonaldson.bravehost.com becomes the place for all things related to John Donaldson. The development of a web strategy defies traditional publishing methods. It used to be that if someone did enough research on a player to publish a bio or book, they would pitch the idea to small publishers hoping to get their work turned into a book. We have decided to take the rediscovery of Donaldson in another direction, choosing to show progress of the effort using the Internet, and people have responded! The Web site is home of day-by-day accounts of the games Donaldson performed in, using original sources. Since the publication of our last newsletter we have hit significant milestones. Traffic from those wanting to know more about John Donaldson topped more than 10,000 viewers! Our effort to get Donaldson's story out to as many people as possible is working. Literally thousands of people have been exposed to his story and have followed up by taking a look at what The Donaldson Network has assembled thus far.



TEAMS PAGE

The Donaldson Network [Teams page](#), the list of Donaldson teammates and opponents continues to expand and attract web searchers who are looking

for Internet sources surrounding a variety of subjects. Some seek ancestors who were known ballplayers, some are filling in listings for their hometown forefathers, others recognize the power of web-lists and what information they can provide future researchers. Whatever the motivation, the Donaldson [Teams page](#) continues to be populated with photos and names of the communities and people who saw John Donaldson play baseball first hand. If you are interested in populating or providing assistance to expand this list let us know. To tell the Donaldson story we need only look to those who were actually exposed to John Donaldson. They knew him and they hold the keys to how history will remember John Donaldson.

John Wesley Donaldson
"Cannonball Donaldson," the teams he played for and played against...

DAY-BY-DAY ACCOUNTS

One of our major initiatives is to provide examples of exactly what type of research we are doing, and allow everyone to share in the feats of John Donaldson and the teams he played for, by posting documents that show day-by-day accounts of games that we have discovered. This has proven to be a major undertaking, as we have accumulated thousands of documents that are the building blocks of Donaldson's story. More than 900 documents have been generated and we've only scratched the surface. Day by day, documents have been posted showing the known game references that span the years 1911-1919. Efforts are underway to continue this process, helping historians judge for themselves the greatness and impact of John Donaldson.

THE DONALDSON NETWORK
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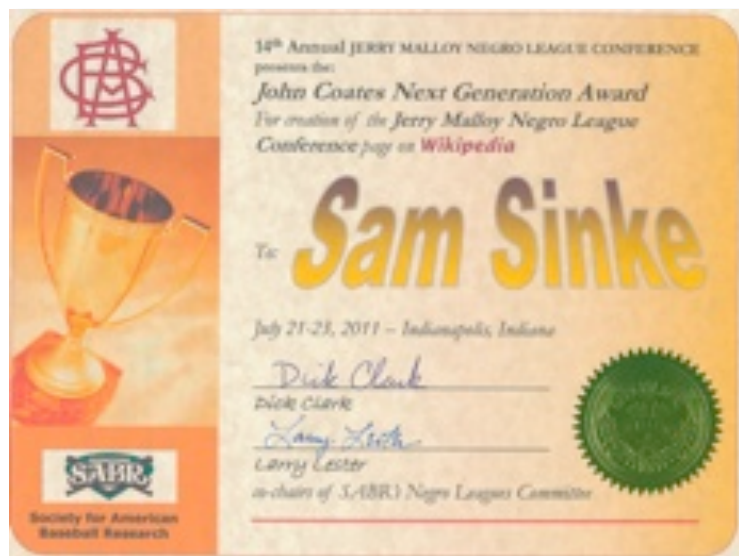
**Donaldson Shuts Out
Bismarck Ball Tossers
in Sensational Game**

The Box Score		AB	R	H	PO	E	A
ALL NATIONS	3	0	1	0	0	0	
Sienna, cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	
Hernandez, 1b	3	0	1	4	0	0	
Mendez, ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Evans, 3b	3	0	0	1	0	0	
Coleman, c	3	0	1	13	0	1	
Hineskol, 2b	3	0	0	1	1	2	
Crowe, rf	3	1	2	0	0	0	
Donaldson, p	3	0	0	0	0	1	
Wilkus, lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	37	1	5	21	1	4	
BISMARCK	AB	R	H	PO	E	A	
Collins, cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Elder, ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	
Shanley, 2b	2	0	0	0	0	5	
Frankenhoff, 1b	3	0	1	13	0	0	
Vivian, 3b	3	0	0	1	0	4	
Kirk, rf	3	0	0	1	1	0	
Flannigan, lf	3	0	0	2	0	6	
Pearock, c	2	0	1	4	0	0	
Christianson, p	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Total	31	0	2	21	1	12	
Struck Out By Donaldson, 12; by Christy, 3. Walks Off Donaldson, 1; off Christy, 1.							
Three-base Hits: Frankenhoff. Two-base Hits: Hernandez and Crowe. Sacrifice Knocks: Donaldson, Elder, Collins and Christy. Stolen Bases: Steino, Coleman and Crowe.							

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P A G E 1

SAM SINKE RECOGNIZED

An integral researcher in The Donaldson Network family is Sam Sinke. His tireless pursuit of exactly how Donaldson's legacy unfolds on the web serves as an example of how a "novice baseball" researcher can dramatically change the direction of black baseball history. Recently Sam was awarded the John Coates Memorial Award by the Society of American Baseball Researchers (SABR) Negro Leagues Committee for his work on bringing the committee's signature event, the Jerry Malloy Negro Leagues Conference page, to Wikipedia. This award solidifies to the world what we already knew, that Sam's efforts on behalf of the lost heroes of segregated baseball have been monumental. Way to go Sam!

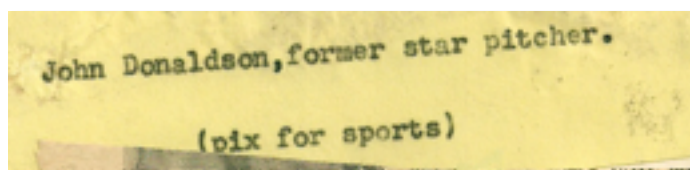


EBay Photo Mystery!

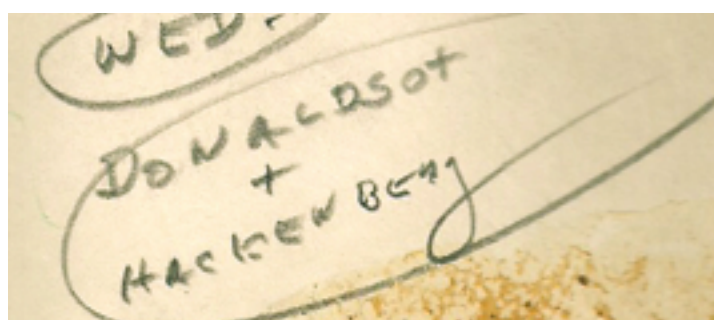
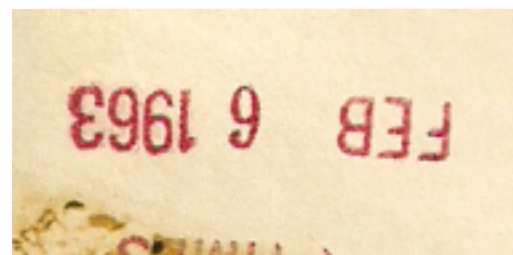
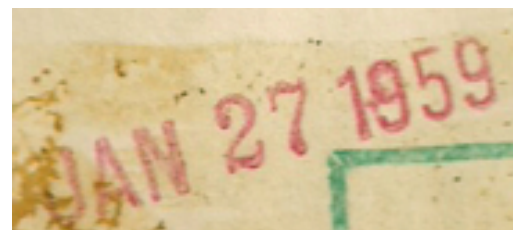
In August of 2011 several of The Donaldson Network faithful alerted us to an eBay auction containing a photograph, said to be of John Donaldson, from the *Sporting News* archives. We had previously never seen the image so we immediately set out to find more information. The photo shown here appeared to be of a senior John Donaldson posing for a portrait.



The auction photos also included a shot of the reverse of the photo that contained a newspaper clipping showing a partial headshot of Donaldson with an accompanying article. Armed with this modest amount of information we put The Donaldson Network to the task of finding out as much as possible about this photo.



We started by looking at the reverse side of the photo. Besides naming "John Donaldson, former star pitcher" and the photo's probable date of Jan. 23, 1959 we still needed to figure out when and where the clipping came from. The inscription contained two date stamps: Jan. 27 1959 and Feb. 6 1963 and a hologram seal stating the photo once belonged in *The Sporting News* collection. The dates gave us a place to begin the search. We Google searched *The Sporting News* archives, figuring by checking the publication on and around those dates we might discover the Donaldson article where this photo was used...to no avail. Neither a photo nor an article appeared in *The Sporting News*. So we kept digging.



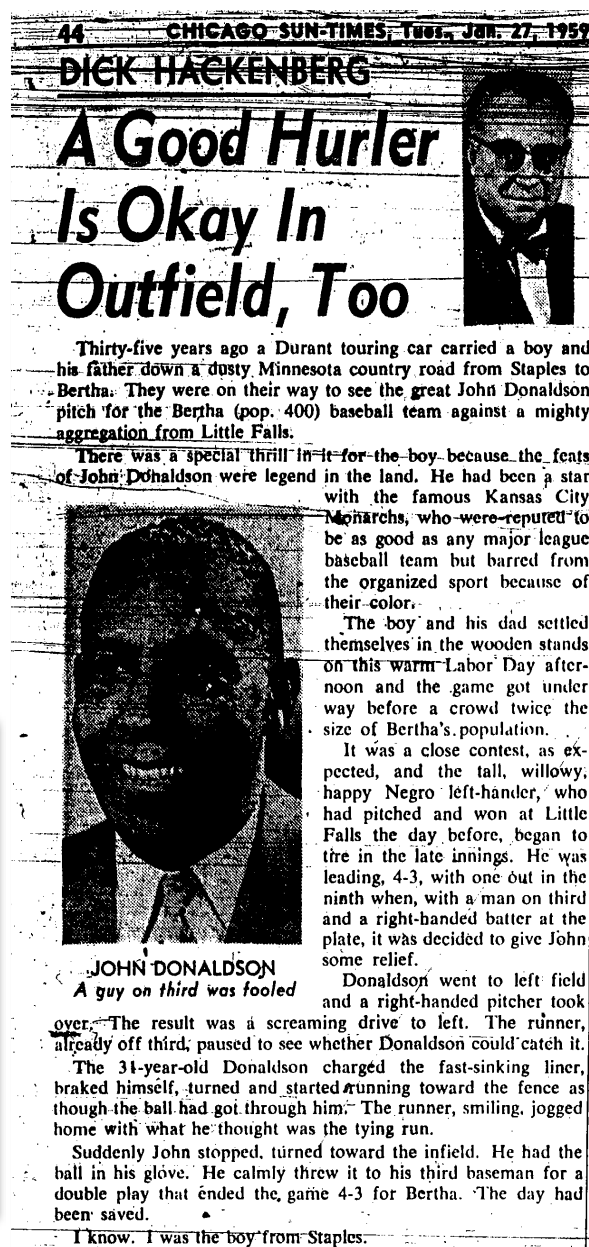
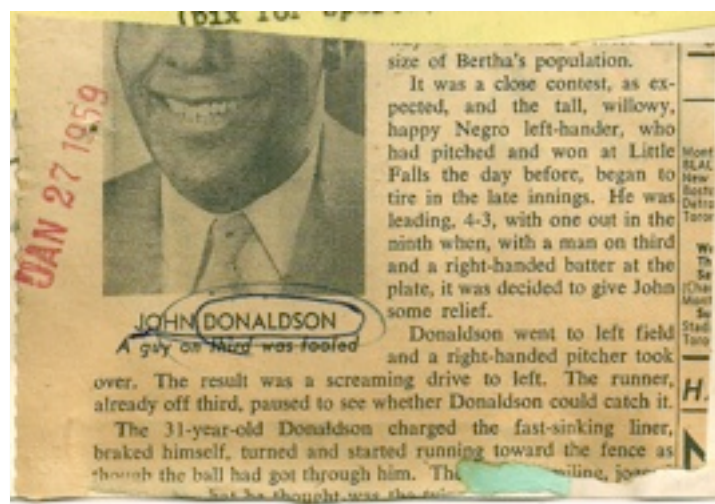
Written in pencil on the photo were the words "Donaldson + Hackenberg." So we searched again this time for "Hackenberg." The result of the search showed that Dick Hackenberg was a guest columnist for *The Sporting News*. Subsequently we discovered that Hackenberg was a writer and long-time editor for the *Chicago Sun Times* and we had found our break! Immediately we contacted [Richard](#), a



Donaldson Network contributor from Chicago, and asked if the next time he was at the Chicago Public Library could he please look up the two dates previously mentioned and see if a John Donaldson discovery could be hidden there. Richard agreed to take a look at the microfilmed copies of the *Sun-Times* on his next visit.

A few days later an email from Richard contained scans of two articles featuring John Donaldson! The article originally printed in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on January 27, 1959 contained information from a personal conversation that Hackenberg and Donaldson shared in the late fifties and included the entire article that was stuck to the back of the auction photo. The article titled "A Good Hurler Is Okay In the Outfield, Too," contained some previously unknown information and a first-hand account of a game Donaldson participated in. A wonderful discovery!

Hackenberg knew Donaldson for many years, and the men shared a common love of baseball. The story goes that when Hackenberg was a young boy in the central Minnesota town of Staples, one of his fondest memories revolved around a trip to see the "great John Donaldson pitch." He recalled a time when his father put him into the family Durant touring car and they rumbled down the country road heading for Bertha, Minnesota.





Bertha Historical Society Photo

Those familiar with Donaldson's story know that in 1924 Bertha hired Donaldson away from his contract with the Kansas City Monarchs of the organized Negro National League, bringing his famous reputation to "the little town in the woods."



Hackenberg continued, "There was a special thrill in it for the boy because the feats of John Donaldson were legend in the land. He had been a star with the famous Kansas City Monarchs, who were reputed to be as good as any major league baseball team but barred from the organized sport because of their color.

"The boy and his dad settled themselves in the wooden stands on this warm Labor Day afternoon and the game got under way before a crowd twice the size of Bertha's population."

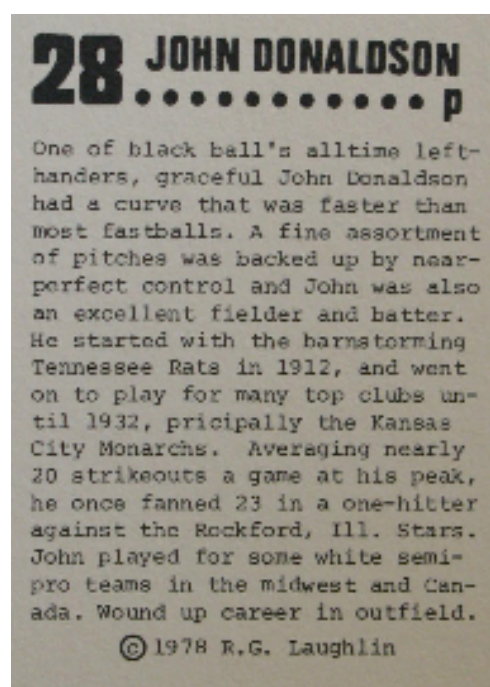
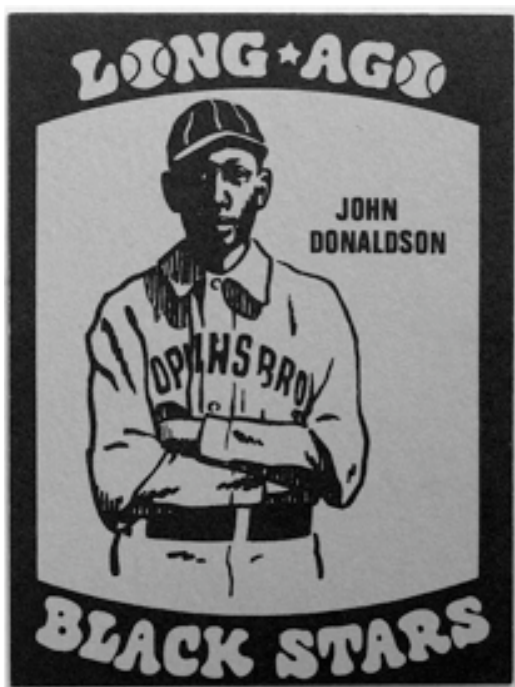


Hackenberg's recollection of watching John Donaldson perform proved to be a tremendous gift to The Donaldson Network, and further study of Hackenberg as a sports writer needs to be conducted. One message seems clear: Dick Hackenberg's love for sports was cemented by an experience he had as a boy going to see John Donaldson play. Hackenberg would ascend to the position of Sports Editor at one of the country's largest newspapers and contribute to *The Sporting News*, a must-read for any baseball fan for decades. A wonderful story, all uncovered by the relentless pursuit of information about John Donaldson and accomplished by The Donaldson Network and its dedicated members!



Note: the eBay photo was auctioned off in August 2011 and subsequently both its seller and buyer contacted The Donaldson Network, graciously offering high-quality scans of the items, which were gratefully accepted. We have included the photo in [The Donaldson Photo Album](#) that appears on the Web site. Within the Photo Book pages are the known images of John Donaldson. We rely on The Donaldson Network members to monitor auction sites for more potential Donaldson items. If you ever think that a photo could include John Donaldson, please let us know we will compare it to other images in our collection. We are **Always Looking** for the next photo to surface!

1978 Baseball Card



On a trip to John Donaldson's hometown of Glasgow, Missouri we stumbled upon this baseball card. It is from the 1978 R.G. Laughlin set and is the oldest example of a baseball card that has been discovered for Donaldson to date. It's a wonderful image of Donaldson, presumably taken from the 1912 Hopkins Brothers photo also shown here.



The reverse side of the card mentions a game that was played in 1934 while Donaldson was pitching for the Kansas City Monarchs in Rockford, Illinois. While not all the information is completely accurate we did find this headline in The Donaldson Network files describing the actual game it references. If anyone knows of other baseball cards depicting Donaldson please let us know!

**John Donaldson
Allows Only 1 Hit;
Fans 23 Batters**

Chicago Defender June 9, 1934

The Donaldson Network Speaks

Contributors to The Donaldson Network have submitted testimonials offering insights as to how John Donaldson story has affected them personally. We will continually share their wonderful responses.

How many talented and extraordinary individuals have lived their lives with no one knowing of their ability?

Mankind is full of people overshadowed by mankind's inhumanity. In the world of baseball one particular individual was John Donaldson. His worth and ability were determined by the color of his skin. He was barred from greatness by being denied a rightful place in professional baseball. Let this injustice be cleared!

Sally - Staples, MN

His stats, endurance & humble demeanor impresses me the most. However, being born & raised in Bertha, and now living in Melrose, piqued my interest in him. He pitched in both cities. One personal story, I was working on a farm near Kelso, N.D. My boss was building a Quonset machine shed. One of the carpentry crew members said he watched a game at Moorhead with Donaldson pitching for Bertha. He was much impressed, as was I, that the little town of Bertha defeated Moorhead. That's the first I heard of Donaldson or even knew that semi-pros were hired for local teams.

Roger - Melrose, MN

Wonderful job of bringing history to light! I love to hear old tales of fascinating people like this. Barnstorming teams back then played against local company teams, meaning that his opposition was no better than me and my friends playing for my company, but the duration and sheer numbers say a ton about this guy.

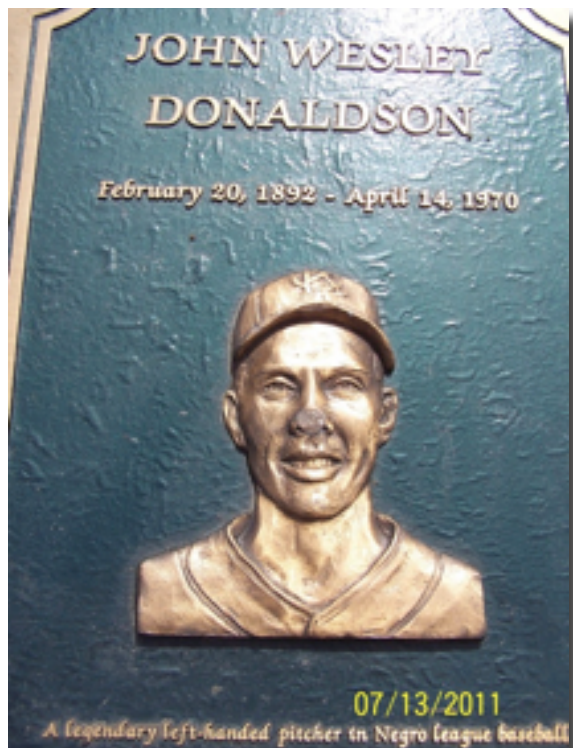
Darryl - Pasadena, Texas

Burr Oak Cemetery Update

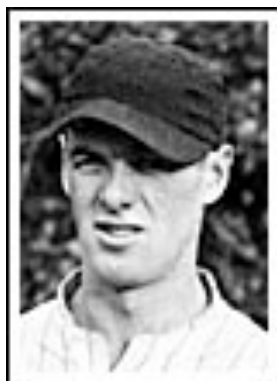


It was discovered recently on a trip to Burr Oak Cemetery that the headstone that marks John Donaldson's final resting-place was damaged. An errant mower blade cut into the bronze likeness of Donaldson. Since then the stone has been lowered deeper into the ground and efforts are underway to get the bronze repaired. We would like to say a special thanks to the [Negro Leagues Grave Marker Project](#) and Dr. Jeremy Krock, in particular, for arranging the repairs. If you are interested in contributing to the NLGMP click [here](#).

We know John Donaldson's wife Eleanor is buried in Burr Oak as well. Currently she lies in an unmarked grave. John and Eleanor were married for more than 53 years. We would like to recognize Eleanor and are seeking someone to spearhead an effort to get her a proper gravestone. Let us know, [here](#), if you would be interested in helping with this effort.



Famous Opponent



[Rich](#) contacted us recently and provided several game accounts of John Donaldson playing baseball in Canada. While at our site johndonaldson.bravehost.com he took a look at the [Teams page](#) and noticed our lineup listings for several games played north of the border. One of the July games was against the

Salloway-Mills club of Calgary, Alberta whose first baseman was famous for playing another sport. In 1928 Cecil "Tiny" Thompson signed a contract with the National Hockey League's Boston Bruins and led the team to the 1928-1929 league championship.

The following summer Donaldson barnstormed with the Colored House of David.

Box Score										
Cubans:										
	A	B	R	H	P	O	A	E		
Hilton, 2b	4	2	2	4	3	0				
Donaldson, p	4	0	1	0	0	0				
Jones, lf	5	0	1	0	0	0				
C. Hancock, c	4	0	2	7	0	0				
Streets, cf	4	0	0	5	0	0				
Boldridge, 3b	5	1	2	1	2	0				
A. Hancock, ss	4	1	2	1	3	1				
D. Young, rf	4	0	0	0	0	1				
J. Young, lb	4	1	3	9	0	1				
Totals	38	5	13	27	12	3				
Salloway-Mills										
Martin, ss	4	0	2	3	2	2				
P. Thompson, cf	5	0	0	0	0	0				
T. Thompson, 1b	4	1	2	12	0	0				
Foss, 2b	4	1	1	2	1	0				
Jenkins, c	4	0	1	5	4	0				
McGolderick, 3b	4	0	1	3	2	0				
Lewis, p	4	1	1	0	4	0				
MacKenzie, lf	3	0	0	0	0	0				
Riley, rf	3	0	1	2	0	0				
Totals	35	3	9	27	13	2				
Score by innings:										
Cubans	101	000	120	—5						
Calgary	210	000	000	—3						



Thompson played 12 seasons in the NHL. He was a 3-time Vezina trophy winner, which is awarded to the top NHL goalie. Thompson was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1959. He stands today as the only Hall of Fame goalie ever to record a shutout in his first NHL game.

In four at bats versus John Donaldson in the July 18 contest, Thompson had two hits.

Special thanks to Rich for his assistance and contributions to The Donaldson Network, keep up the great work!



Network Updates

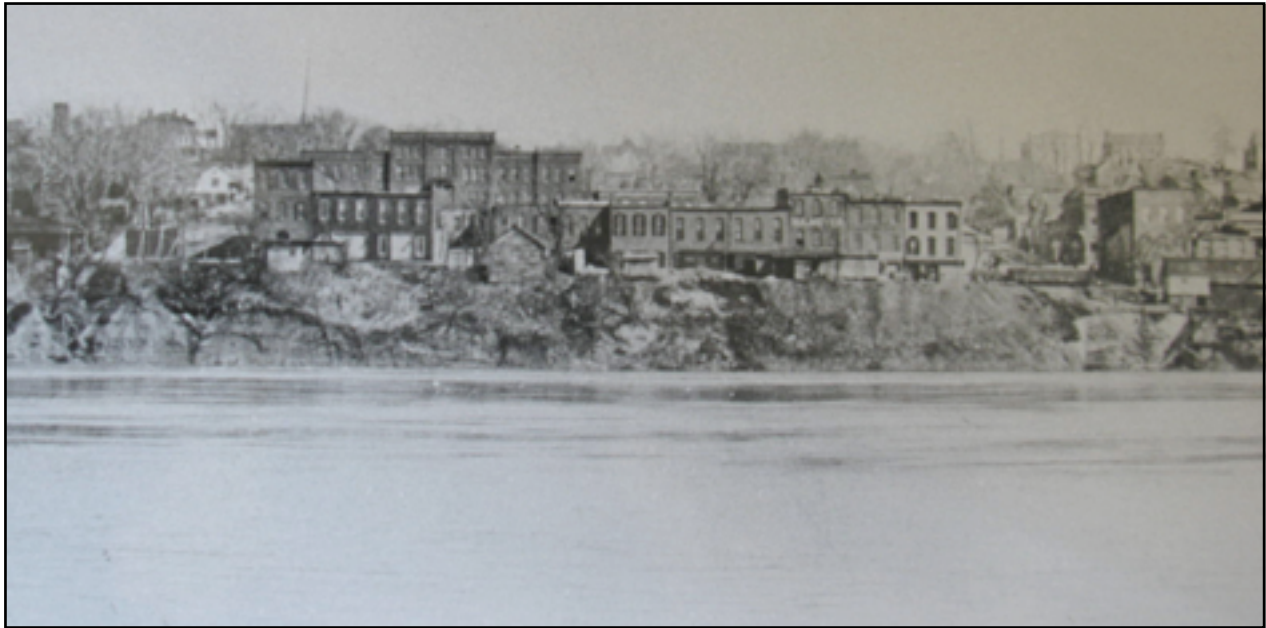
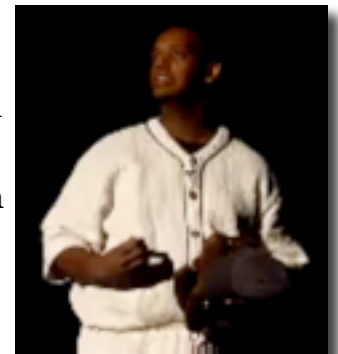


Photo Courtesy of The Glasgow History Museum

GLASGOW MISSOURI ITEMS

We visited Glasgow, Missouri for the river town's 175th Anniversary. There was an abundance of discussion surrounding John Donaldson and efforts there to keep his name alive within the community. A highlight of the celebration was the depiction of John Donaldson in the play *Passions and Passages: Glimpses of Glasgow Past*, that was performed by members of the community. One scene is available [here](#); featuring Derrick Enyard as John Donaldson!



If you are ever in Howard County, Missouri be sure to stay at the [Chariton Lodge](#).

It's as relaxing as it is beautiful!

And tell Cheryl and Jr. The Donaldson Network sent you!



HANNACA BALLPARK PHOTO

Recently this photograph from John Donaldson's hometown surfaced. This photo shows where, as a boy, John Donaldson would have first attended baseball games. The large grandstand is visible, as well as the inset scoreboard. We can confidently say the photo was taken around 1908 because that year local newspapers reported, "W.L. Hannaca has leased Rhea's old ball park for a term of three years." Hannaca was the owner of the Hannaca Blues one of John Donaldson's first teams. A great shot of Donaldson's hometown ballpark!

SKYPE CALLS?

At different times over the past several years we at The Donaldson Network has used technology to enhance our effort's ability to communicate with fellow researchers in the field.

We have shared information, provided leads to John Donaldson games and supported one another's research efforts "on the cutting edge."

Let us know by clicking [here](#), if you would be interested in joining a Skype research group or would like an educational presentation on how anyone can lend their talents to rediscovery efforts on behalf of John Donaldson.



Network Updates - Stranger Calls



1934 Kansas City Monarchs - kansasmemory.org

Chris's experience is a testimony to the new era of research we are working in. We felt it was so important we are reprinting his entire email.

Donaldson Network: How did you learn about John Donaldson and The Donaldson Network?

Chris: I learned about John Donaldson when I was doing research for a presentation at the Wenatchee Valley Museum that I gave on baseball history in the area. There were lots of stories of different barnstorming teams that stopped and played in Wenatchee during the 30s and 40s. Nobody had any specific info or dates of the games, so as part of my research for the presentation I spent a fair amount of time at the library going through the microfilm of the local newspaper from that era.

I found out about a lot of great barnstorming teams that played in Wenatchee. I would go through the box scores and Google the players to see what I could find

WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON

Last fall we received an email from out of the blue. The mailer, [Chris](#) thought we would be interested in a game he came across doing local baseball research. We asked Chris to share how he found The Donaldson Network and his response is written here. Our online presence has proven to be a valuable tool in the search for the games John Donaldson played in.

Monarchs				
	AB	R	H	E
Dwight, cf	5	2	2	0
Mothell, 2b	5	3	2	0
Allen, ss	5	2	3	0
Giles, 1b	5	3	4	0
Young, lf	6	3	3	1
McNair, rf	6	2	3	1
Rogan, p	3	1	2	0
Joseph, 3b	6	2	2	0
Duncan, c	6	3	3	0
Donaldson, p	3	1	3	0
Totals	51	22	26	
All-Stars				
Clark, c	4	0	1	0
Allen, 2b	5	0	1	0
McCord, cf	5	0	0	0
V. Black, ss	5	0	0	0
Lake, rf	4	1	1	0
Dell, lf	2	0	1	0
Whiting, 1b	3	0	0	0
Schille, p	0	0	0	0
Ralach, p	2	0	1	0
Lorraine, p	1	1	1	0
Gaborit, p	1	1	1	0
Boyd, ss	1	1	1	0
Woods, lf	1	1	1	0
Freeman, 1b	1	0	0	0
Cadron, c	1	0	1	0
Totals	37	4	10	
SUMMARY				
Two base hits: Gaborit, Cadron, Mothell, Rogan 2, Duncan.				
Three base hits: Dwight, Giles, Duncan. Home runs: Allen, Josephs. Stolen bases: Allen, Dwight.				
Base on balls: off Schille 2, off Ralach 2, off Lorraine 2, off Donaldson 2. Struckout: by Rogan 2, by Donaldson 6, by Schille 2, by Lorraine 1, by Gaborit 2.				

Box Score of the July 5, 1934 Kansas City Monarch vs. the Wenatchee (WA) All Stars

out about them. Donaldson certainly stuck out from that 1934 Kansas City Monarchs game in Wenatchee, because the newspaper described him as "one of the greatest colored pitchers of all-time." I stumbled into your project during my Internet search of him and wanted to send you the game story and box score since I didn't see it listed on your Web site. Also since he was the winning pitcher in the game based on the box score, it was nice to find evidence to add another victory to his all-time total.

WILKINSON ARTICLE SUBMITTED

[Aaron Stilley](#) a Kansas City area blogger and member of The Donaldson Network sent in this article he came across while researching in the *Kansas City Call* from May 28, 1948 the article appeared in the Sport Light column. The career of J.L. Wilkinson and the important role he played in John Donaldson's career made us feel that it was an article worth sharing:



Sport Light

J.L. Wilkinson, former owner of the Kansas City Monarchs, does not go to ball games any more. But there is no one more interested in the Monarchs than is Mr. Wilkinson. The reason he does not attend games is that he can't see the plays on the field, and he, therefore, gets more satisfaction from listening to telephone reports on the progress of games and from reports after they are finished.

For some years now, Mr. Wilkinson has been troubled by failing eyesight. It all started, he said, from an automobile accident he suffered several years ago. An operation failed to aid his left eye, and now he sees things close to him but not at a distance.

But this malady does not lessen his interest in the team that he started in 1919. And he can talk for hours about it and vows that the name Monarchs will always mean much to him.

The Monarchs were named by one of the greatest pitcher that ever lived, white or black, said Mr. Wilkinson. This pitcher was a great left-hander named John Donaldson from Glasgow, Missouri.

"Donaldson suggested the name 'Monarchs' one day when we were feeling around for a name to give to re-organization of the All-Nations team," said Wilkinson. "Right away the name sounded good and we adopted it."

Donaldson at that time was a member of the All-Nations team, which Wilkinson started in 1908. This club was a traveling outfit composed of about 30 people, five of the regular players were Negroes, said Mr. Wilkinson.

"The All-Nations team traveled in a special private car in those days," said Wilkinson. "We all ate, slept and played together. There was never any trouble. We were a happy family."

The former Monarch boss said that the star of the All-Nations was Donaldson.

After Donaldson had played with the new Monarchs for some time he lost his arm.

The loss was sustained in this way, said Mr. Wilkinson.

"One day a game in which Donaldson had won was terminated in the late innings by a rain. The teams hurried to get back to the hotel. Donaldson jumped on a crowded car for the ride to town.

"He could not get into the car. He hung on the side and rode in; his arm got wet. In a day or two he complained about soreness in the shoulder, and a few days later he found that he could not pitch. He never regained the effective use of his arm. That was the end of the greatest pitcher that ever threw a baseball," said Mr. Wilkinson.

COLLEGE PAPER ON JOHN DONALDSON

Several months ago we were contacted by a college student, [Andy](#), looking for some original sources for a paper he was going to write for one of his classes. We insisted that the topic surround John Donaldson and he agreed. Any publication, research paper or original work is strongly encouraged by The Donaldson Network. Please contact us if there is any assistance we can provide. Andy's paper can be viewed [here](#):

We asked Andy about his experience, how the paper was received, and we wanted to print his responses:

A Midwestern Pastime:

A look at race, John Donaldson, and baseball in the Midwest

Donaldson Network: How did you select this topic?

Andy: After I began doing research on Donaldson the theme of my paper evolved into Donaldson's dominance during a time in which African-American baseball players had a lot more to deal with than playing the game. Being an African-American baseball player in the time that Donaldson was active carried a lot of weight. Nobody had broken the color barrier in Major League Baseball and because he was left with smaller leagues he is largely overlooked nowadays. My goal was to focus on Donaldson's dominance while touching on how impressive he was throughout the adversity he faced and how he may be a common name in baseball circles had he been able to play years later when the color barrier was broken.

DN: What made you think of John Donaldson originally?

Andy: The beginnings of the paper began with a decision to write about the evolution of baseball in Iowa, but as I began to do some research John Donaldson's name kept appearing. I would find old newspaper clippings, small blurbs on Web sites and then of course the mother ship that is your site. After a little further research in to Donaldson's amazing career I knew I had a new direction. When I really dove in to the life and career of Donaldson I was amazed by what he did and how he continued to dominate throughout all of the leagues he was a part of.

DN: Can you tell us what course you wrote it for?

Andy: The name of the course was History of the Midwest with Professor Amahia Mallea. The basic premise of the course was to take a deeper look at how the Midwest played an integral part in the shaping and development of our country. Topics ranged from how the Midwest was influenced by Native American leaders like Blackhawk, to the nature writings of Aldo Leopold.