



Cubs Supreme in the Baseball World¹

Well, no one has heard that in a while. In fact, it was so long ago, a World Series film that was known to have been made has likely long since turned to dust², and only a relatively small number of high-quality actual 1907 and 1908 WS still photos have been published. This scarcity may explain the fact that more than a few images falsely claiming to be from these two series have been published in baseball history books. One has appeared at least four times and will be discussed in a future issue. For now, we analyze the real-photo postcard, below, which was recently offered by a major auction house (image extends to page 2).



The auction description reads:

“...a packed West Side Park between the Chicago Cubs and Detroit Tigers from the 1907 or 1908 World Series...In the photo is the copy *World Series, Cubs-Vs-Tigers, Chicago, IL.* and 27,000 people.” Our research shows the attendance closest to that number (assuming it is close to accurate) was the 24,000+ who saw Game 1 of the 1907 Series possibly setting the scene as being from that game.”

So, someone at some point in time wrote “WORLD SERIES” on the postcard, as well as “CUBS-VS-TIGERS” and “27,000 PEOPLE” (see page 2). Can that all be right? Do we have at least one more precious image of erstwhile Cub glory? Let’s see if we can figure this out.

Another photo, top of page 2, is a well-known George Lawrence image that was taken at West Side Grounds (WSG) during the 1907 WS (see

cover of SABR’s *Deadball Stars of the American League*). With a view from the 1st base side, it’s clear that the upper-deck on the 3rd base side does not extend very far down the 3rd base line. However, in the postcard, we see on page 2 that the upper-deck extends all the way down the 3rd base line to the outfield bleachers. Thus, the postcard image cannot have been taken during the 1907 WS. So is the 1908 WS a possibility?



Game two, 1907 World Series, West Side Grounds, Chicago, 10-9-1907



The photo below shows a Cubs vs. Giants game at WSG on 8-30-1908. The upper deck structure seems to match that shown on the postcard. Based on that, the postcard image could be from the 1908 WS. However,



the attendance for the two games played in Chicago during the '08 series was well below expectations at 17,760 and 14,453⁹. It is clear that the written claim on the postcard of "27,000 people," if close to a correct crowd estimate for the photo, is not consistent with the 1908 series attendance figures.

Noting that the 1908 seating capacity of WSG was about 14,200⁴, we would expect to see only a relatively small amount of fan overflow onto the field for either of those games. However, in the postcard image there is considerable overflow down the lines and in the outfield. It does appear that the crowd is probably too large for either of the 1908 WS games played in Chicago. In any case, there is further evidence that the postcard image is not from the '08 series.

The image below *is* a 1908 WS photo taken at WSG. We know that because:

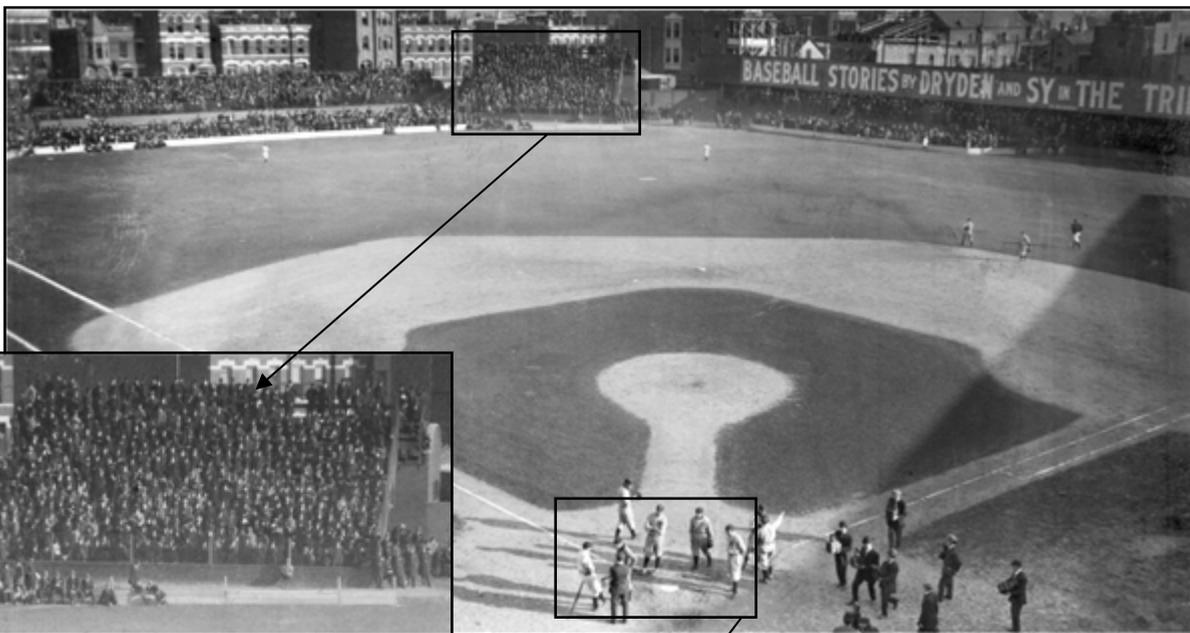
1 – those are Detroit players hanging around home plate (see magnification bottom of page, right).

Given that, we know it is a World Series game⁵, and

2 – the center field bleacher section extends above the Cubs center field club-house roof (see inset).

That was new for the 1908 season. That was not the case for the 1907 season as is seen in the image, bottom left, cropped from Geo. Lawrence 1907 WS photo.

Note the one Cub in the magnified home plate section is wearing a dark cap. The Cubs did not wear their usual 2-toned 1908 regular season caps in the 1908 WS – they wore solid blacks⁶.



Chicago History Museum SDN-007033



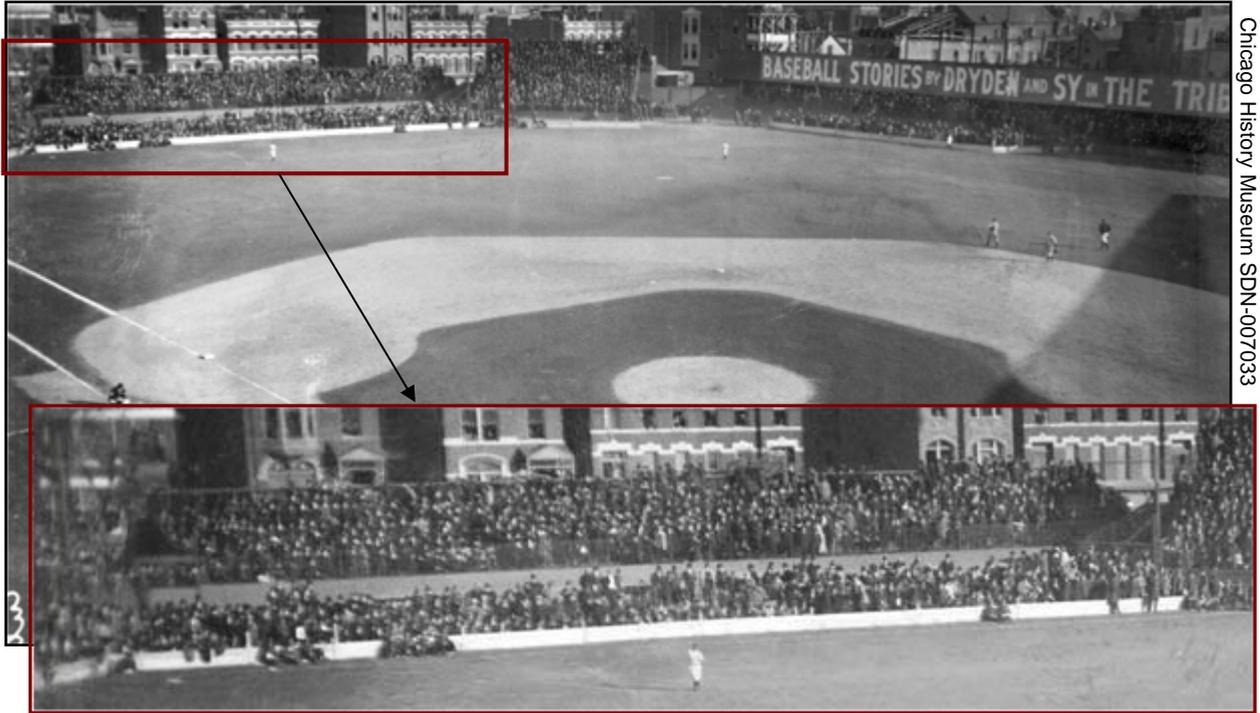
WSG center field clubhouse in 1908



WSG center field clubhouse from 1907 WS photo



The key part of this 1908 WS photo is the configuration of the extra seating in left field shown just below. There are just a few rows of additional seating in front of the permanent bleachers, with a second very low fence added in front of the additional seating.



Chicago History Museum SDN-007033

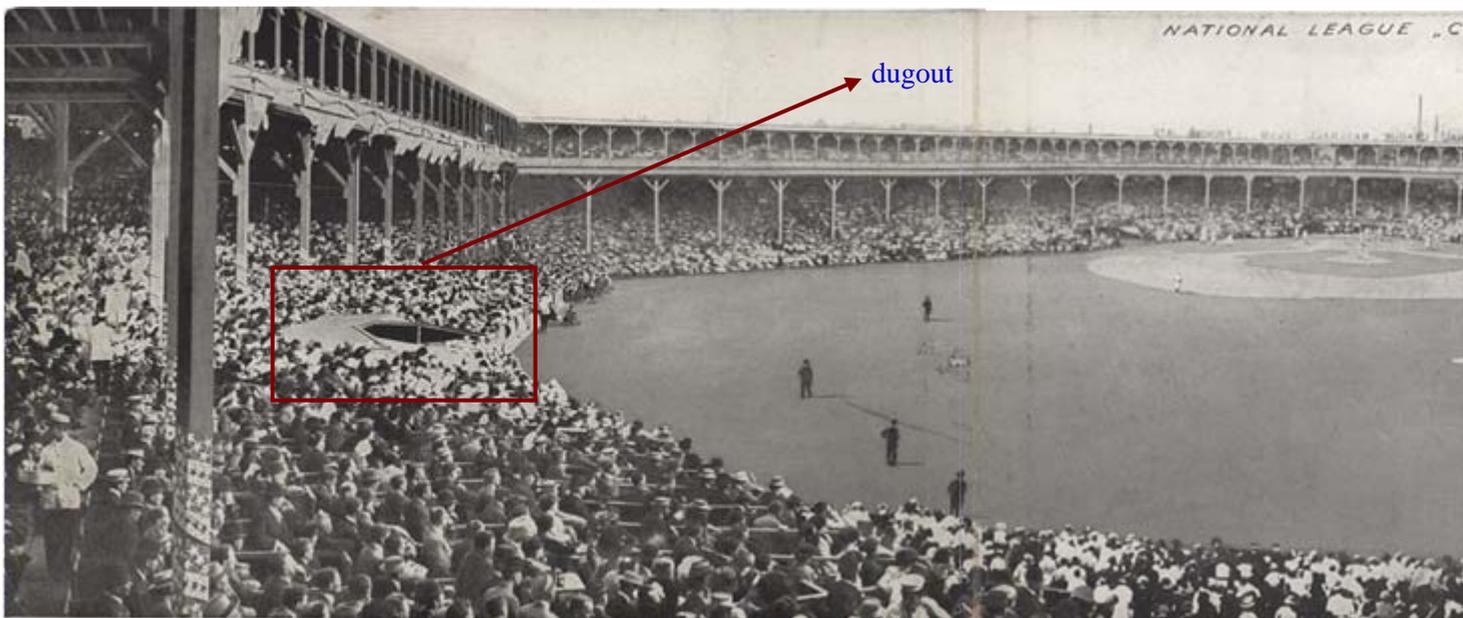
That same area, cropped from the postcard image, is shown below. The arrangement for the additional seating is completely different. There are many more rows, and there is no second fence.



So we know that at least one of the two 1908 WS games played at WSG had a very different left field seating configuration than that shown in the auction postcard. It seems unlikely that this would have changed very much for games on consecutive days. Also, the crowd appears

be too large for either game. The writing on the postcard is not consistent with history, so it is of little value. The claim that this is a Cubs-Tigers World Series game is clearly not well-supported. Well, could it be the 1910 Cubs-A's series?

The auction postcard is again reproduced, just below, on pages 5 and 6. Note that we can see the back of the right field billboard. By opening day of 1910, the billboard was more than doubled in height to block the rooftop freeloaders⁷. Hence, this photo can't be from the 1910 season (and thus is not from the 1910 Cubs-A's World Series, the last played at WSG). The high billboard remained in place into the 1911 season and beyond⁸. Therefore, we can date this non-World Series postcard image to either the 1908 or 1909 season.



Interestingly, this image also appeared on another postcard, copyrighted in 1911. Just under the auction postcard, directly above and extending to page 6, is shown a tri-fold Max Rigot postcard of West Side Grounds. The far right (see page 6) and middle sections of the Rigot postcard are an exact match to the auction item. In the far left section of the Rigot

postcard, directly above, the actual right field wall and billboard evident in the auction postcard were replaced by a copy of either the left field or the right field line stands from another photo. That's why you see a dugout in right field! Apparently, Max Rigot did not think the walkway and buildings behind the right field wall were postcard-worthy. 🏠



Endnotes:

- [1] Headline, *Chicago Tribune*, 10-15-1908
- [2] *The World's Championship Baseball Series of 1908*, released 10-17-1908, www.IMDb.com
- [3] Baseball-Reference.com via Richard Smiley
- [4] *When the Cubs Won it All*, G. Mathews, McFarland, 2009
- [5] The Cubs and Tigers did play a post-WS exhibition at WSG on 10-18-1908, but the attendance was under 7,000. The

- full outfield bleachers indicate that this photo did not depict that event. See *Chicago Tribune*, 10-19-1908
- [6] Action photos from the 1908 WS show this to be the case (*Chicago Record-Herald*, 10-12-1908, CHS SDN-054714, CHS SDN-007034)
- [7] CHS SDN-008822, SDN-008828, SDN-008761
- [8] CHS SDN-056643 and many later photos of WSG
- [9] *Chicago Tribune*, 10-13-1908

One More 1889 Louisville Player Identified

The January issue featured a photo of the 1889 Louisville NL club, below right, which has appeared in two modern books, *The Beer and Whisky League* (BWL) and *Louisville Diamonds* (LD), with many of the players mis-identified. The ID's were examined in detail and a revised list was presented. Now, thanks to a nice find by reader **T. Scott Brandon**, one more mystery is resolved

Of particular interest were the players back row second from the right, and front row far right, who had been identified respectively as John Galligan and Ed Flanagan. With most of the other given ID's shown to be wrong and with no known reference images of either man, we left them as "can't verify."

Scott came across the Scranton Central League 1888 team image, right, and noticed the presence of a player listed as *Galligan* and thought he resembled the player that had been identified as *Flanagan* in the Louisville photo. A check of the minor league database verifies that the same John Galligan played for Scranton in '88 and Louisville in '89. A face comparison verifies Scott's opinion.

So, the latest revised list is:

As in BWL and LD:

back row -

Dan Shannon
Farmer Vaughn
Brown

John Galligan
Chicken Wolf

front row -

J. Ewing/Farmer Weaver
Farmer Weaver/J. Ewing
Scott Stratton
Red Ehret
Ed Flanagan

As revised:

back row -

Scott Stratton
maybe Vaughn
can't verify
not Galligan, unk.
not Wolf, unk.

front row -

neither, unk.
Phil Tomney
Dan Shannon
Red Ehret
John Galligan

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Louisville NL 1889



Scranton CL 1888



John Galligan



Galligan, not Flanagan



unk., not Galligan

Separated at Birth?

One of the problems with identifying early baseball photos is that sometimes different people look similar. People do see faces differently, and for many, this subjective impression is very much affected by the power of suggestion combined with a strong desire for a “great find.” This is especially a problem when it comes to 19th-century men in street clothes who happen to look somewhat like famous baseball personalities.

Recently, a collector posted the Carl Horner cabinet photo, near right, on the Net54 collectors forum. Since it was a Horner photo, he reasonably thought it might be a ballplayer, and he asked if anyone recognized him.

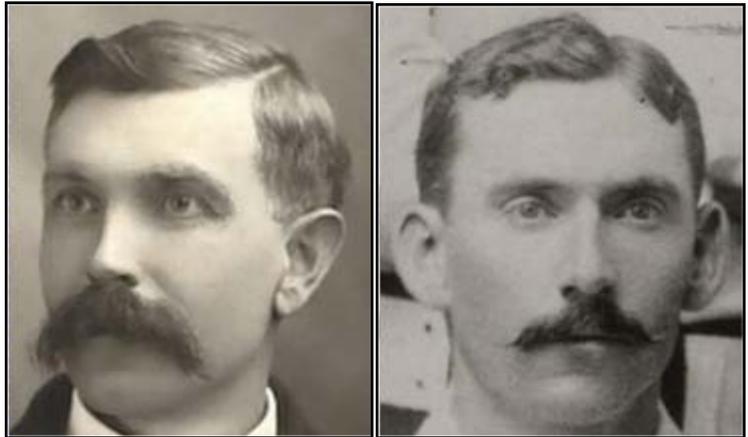


photo by Carl Horner

Fred Dunlap

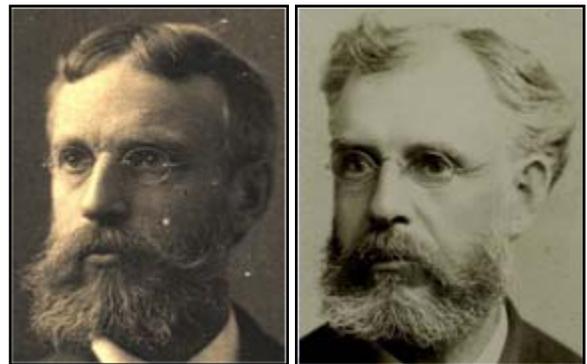
I did not recognize him, and he could have been a major leaguer – I still don’t know for sure. However, I saw this as an opportunity to show that it is relatively easy to find a major league face that is at least similar to just about any old photo of an adult male that turns up. So I was scanning through my 19th-

century major league faces and spotted Fred Dunlap, far right. I thought, “Hey, he has a less bushy mustache, but he kind of looks like the guy in the Horner photo,” and I posted the image on the forum.

I thought that my point would be obvious, i.e. that they look pretty similar even though they aren’t the same person. However, the collector thought I was saying his Horner cabinet *really was Dunlap*. Looking at the images again, they are really similar, though the left ears can be seen to be grossly different.

The face in the photo, near right, looks remarkably similar to Harry Wright, far right. Owner **Jimmy Leiderman**, in jest, calls it “Harry Wright’s unknown brother.” Though the ears don’t match, there are hairline issues, and the visible nostrils are quite different, there is little doubt that under the right circumstances Jimmy’s photo could pass for Harry Wright.

Courtesy Jimmy Leiderman

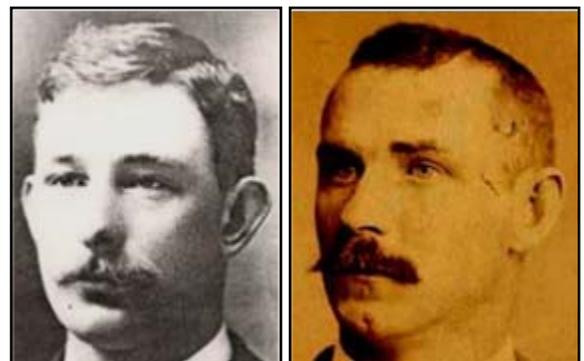


not Wright

Harry Wright

More than a couple of decades ago, the photo, near right, was claimed to be Roger Connor. He looks slightly similar to Connor, though the resemblance is less strong than that exhibited in the above photos. In any case, the imposter lacks Connor’s chin cleft, and the left ears are not at all similar – not even close.

Facial similarity is not always a pre-requisite for this type of claim. There are cases where the photo in question looks far less like the person it is claimed to depict than the examples shown here, yet for some reason it becomes generally accepted that the ID is correct.....



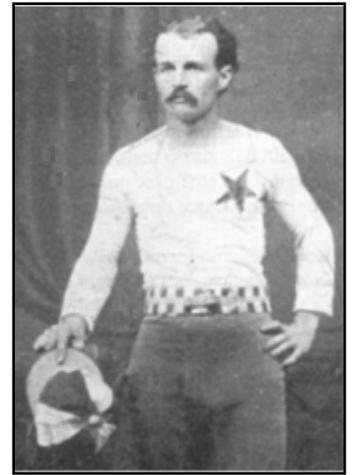
not Connor

Roger Connor

Recession

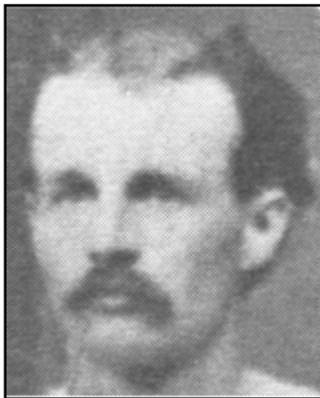
As time progresses, some things move forward. Hairlines, on the other hand, recede. That fact of nature did not deter someone from claiming that the interesting tintype, right, was an early image of a particular ballplayer.

This photo appeared in SABR's 1989 publication *Baseball's First Stars* and, a few years later, in *The Great Encyclopedia of 19th Century Major League Baseball*. The young man, wearing what appears to be a mid-to-late 1870's style uniform, was identified in both books as Frank "Silver" Flint. The tintype was recently consigned for auction with a claimed date of 1876, and a question was raised as to the veracity of the Flint identification.



tintype

To begin with, comparing his face magnified, just below left, to three verified photos of Flint, he just does not look like Flint – at least I'm not seeing it. The Flint photos shown here (plus all the others I could find) all look like the same person. The face in the tintype is the only one that doesn't look right.



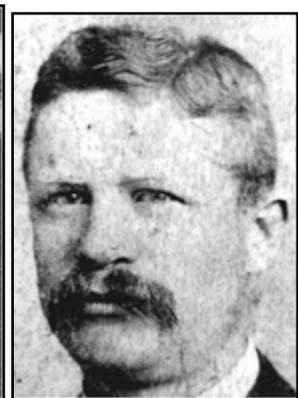
Tintype c1876



Flint c1879



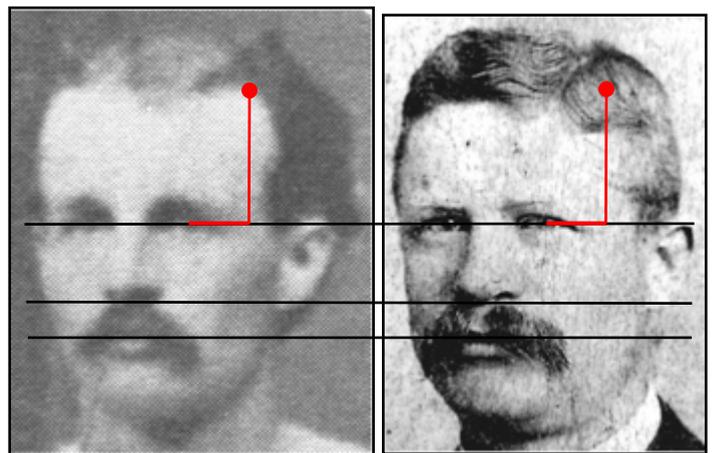
Flint 1885



Flint c1887

More analytically, what *can* easily be seen is that the face from the tintype had a very noticeable receding hairline on both sides of his head. It appears that the real Flint was much more fortunate in this regard.

While it should be obvious from just looking at the faces above, a simple measurement highlights the difference. Starting with two faces that are fairly close in angle to the camera, they are resized so that the major features align. This is based on an initial assumption that they are the same person. Then on the tintype image, a point is chosen where the hairline has receded, and

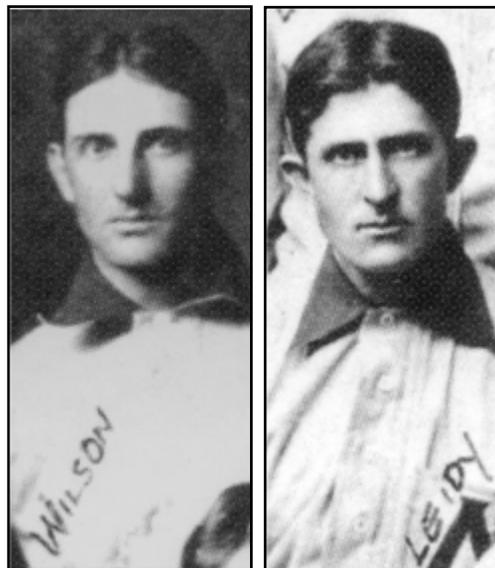


that point is marked with a red dot. Its distance horizontally and vertically from the pupil is measured and marked with red lines. These red lines and the dot are transferred to the image of Flint. The difference between the two heads is readily apparent. So, absent some 1880's miracle hair growth drug that has been lost to history, the guy in the tintype can't be Flint. The tintype was removed from the auction.

Note that the correct left-right orientation of the tintype is probably as shown here, but it may be reversed. In that case, a similar hairline analysis can be made with the same result. 📷

Leidy Bug

The latest *The National Pastime – Baseball in the Peach State* has a really nice cover photo of the 1902 Atlanta Southern Association club which boasted quite a few major league players. Each player's name is written directly on his jersey in the image. Top row, 2nd from the right, is a player labeled as "Wilson," shown here near right. One would think that would have to be Frank Ealton "Zeke" Wilson. He was the only Wilson on the team's 1902 and 1903 rosters according to our minor league database. Also, there appears a somewhat similar looking player, front row 3rd from the left, labeled "Leidy," shown here far right. One would expect him to be career minor leaguer George Leidy.



Zeke Wilson's time in the majors spanned 1895-1899 and included stops in Cleveland and St. Louis. A photo of Wilson with Cleveland is shown, far right. The problem is that this is not the same person labeled as Wilson in the Atlanta team photo – different nose, clearly different ears.



not Wilson

Zeke Wilson Cle '98

However, the player labeled as Leidy *is* a perfect match to Zeke Wilson, ears, nose, and everything else.



Wilson, not Leidy

Zeke Wilson Cle '98

So, the player labeled as Leidy is actually Wilson. Is the face thought to be Wilson's actually that of George Leidy? Good comparison photos of Leidy proved hard to find. Based on what we found so far, it seems very possible that the Atlanta player is Leidy. If anyone has a good Leidy image, please send it in. 📧

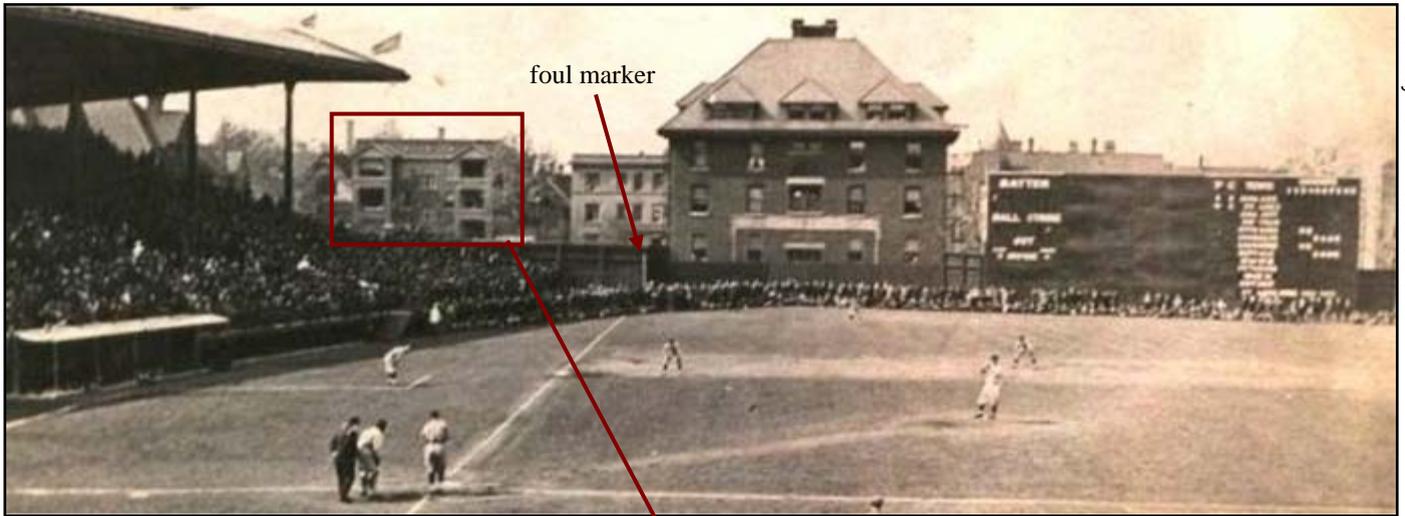


Leidy ?

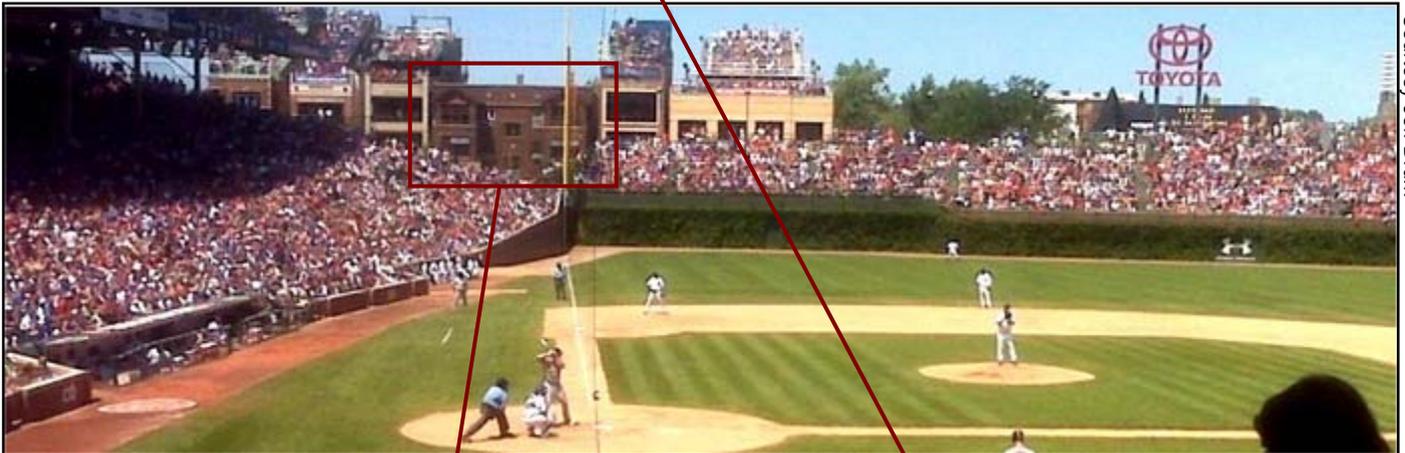
----- George Leidy -----

Weeghman Then and Now

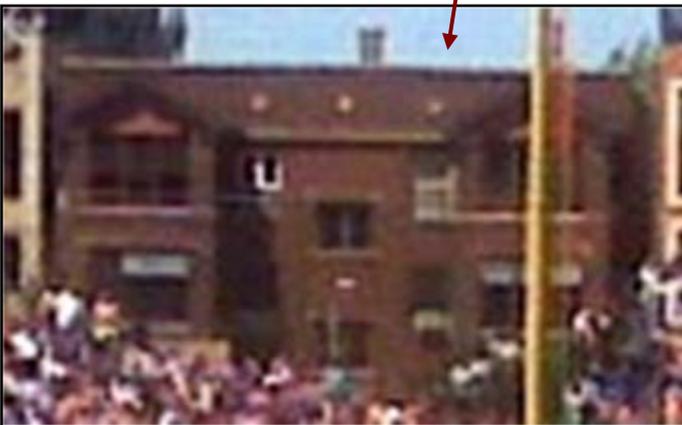
It's always kind of interesting to see how landmark locations have changed over a period of 100 years or so. The nice photo just below shows Weeghman Park c1914, and just below it is a modern shot of it's descendent, Wrigley Field. While the huge building just beyond the left field wall in 1914 is now long gone, at least one vintage edifice remains, as is indicated at the bottom of the page. What is also interesting is that while the modern foul pole is directly in front of the right part of that building, in 1914 the foul line marker was a considerable distance to the right of the building. We can also see that the vintage home plate location was more than a small distance to the right of the modern home plate.



Courtesy Patrick Nester Collection



Courtesy Jeff Drum



More - Separated at Birth?

Speaking again of look-alikes, the current issue of *The Inside Game* features an article that discusses the photo, below left, that had been mis-identified as the Chi-Sox' Fielder Jones in *Deadball Stars of the American League*. Right team, wrong Jones, as the photo actually depicts Charlie Jones during his only year in Chicago. Reference photos shown below right.



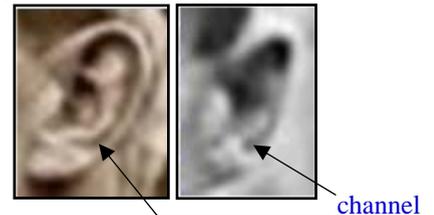
DSAL photo |----- Charlie Jones -----|

After seeing the article, **Denis Pajot** sent me a note saying that the DSAL photo has also been mistaken for the White Sox' 1906 World Series hero, George Rohe, on the *Find a Grave* and *DMB Historic World Series Replays* websites. I was surprised to hear that. But, after I put Rohe, near right, next to Jones, far right, it was very apparent how that mistake could be made. It is a mistake, right? Wow, are the Rohe and Jones photos the same person? This can all get pretty confusing.



George Rohe Charlie Jones

Though these two heads are at different angles, we can try to compare the left ears. For Rohe, the channel just inside the outer edge of the ear extends further down and partially across the top of the ear lobe. For Jones, it does not, but instead stops short when it reaches the lobe.

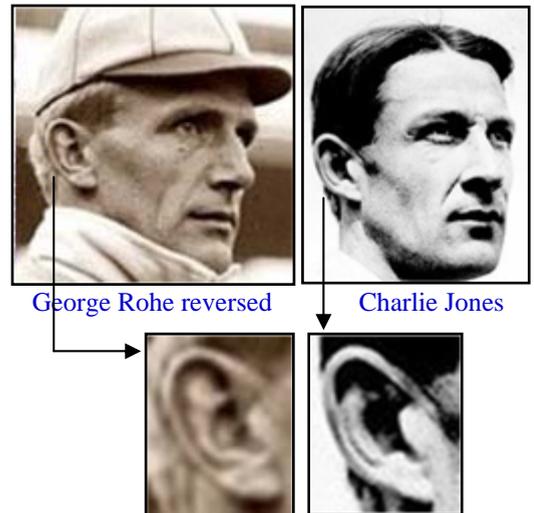


Now, if we do a L-R reversal of the Rohe photo, it's very easy to compare his ear to the very clear ear in the Jones semi-profile image. We are of course comparing a left ear to a right ear. While it is preferable to compare ears from the same side, the right and left ears of a person are usually very similar¹. In this case, for Rohe, a photo I can't publish shows that his are extremely similar.

This Rohe vs. Jones comparison, right, again shows that the ears really are quite different. These *are* two different people.

Rohe and Jones faced each other more than once in White Sox vs. Nats games. Looking through a few game accounts, no mention was made of one being confused for the other. Sometimes people can look similar in some photos, but not that much alike in real life. Perhaps that was the case here.

DMB has since replaced the DSAL Charlie Jones photo on its site with one that really is George Rohe. 🏆



George Rohe reversed Charlie Jones

[1] For an exception, take a look at Fred Dunlap on page 8.

Hidden Evidence

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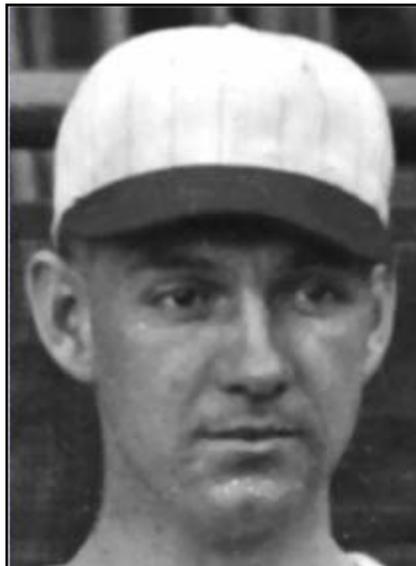
The photo, right, was submitted by **Mark Stang**. Based on the positive ID of Herb Pennock, far left in that photo, and the Red Sox home uniform style, the photo dates to 1921 or 1922.

Mark believes that the player, far right, may be Benn “Baldy” Karr. If his nickname was based on the appearance of his scalp, Karr was not likely to be mistaken for Silver Flint. Unfortunately, this player has his cap on.

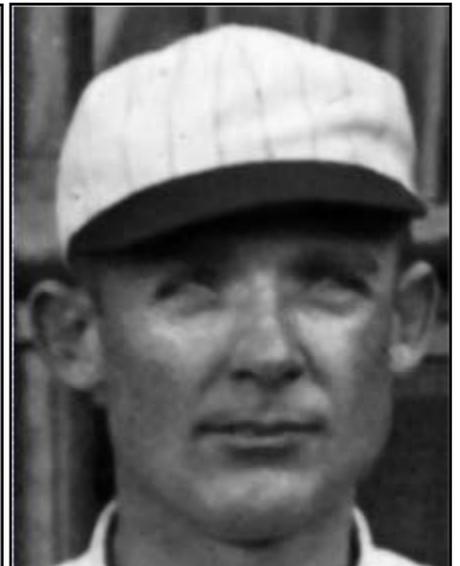
However, based on a poor quality reference image, the Karr ID may be correct. The player in the middle is unknown. If anyone has a clear photo of Karr or any idea who the guy in the middle is, please let us know. 📷



Herb Pennock



middle - ?



right, Baldy Karr?

Completely Unknown

This photo comes via **Sean Lahman**. If you can tell us anything about it, please let us know. 



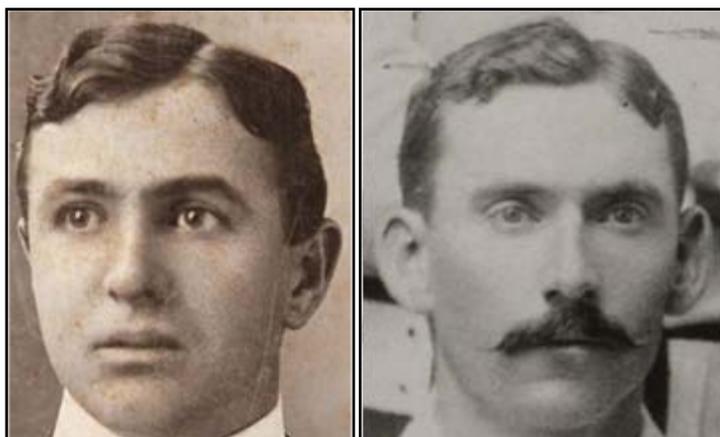
Stop the Presses!

Just before the release of this issue, it was brought to our attention that the Carl Horner cabinet photo, below left, was being offered for sale by a major auction house claiming that it was Fred Dunlap. The estimated price was \$1000-\$2000. We just visited Freddy back on page 8, comparing Dunlap to another person that did at least resemble him. On this one, you be the judge.

On the back of the auction item was a typed label that said "Fred Dunlap". Some additional hand written bio info was also included. Always be cautious when you see:

- 1) a 19th-century man in street clothes
- 2) not grouped with easily recognizable teammates
- 3) ID written (or typed) on the front or back

The photo was removed from the auction.



auction photo

Fred Dunlap

Thanks to T. Scott Brandon, Jeff Drum, Sean Lahman, Jimmy Leiderman, Leon Luckey, Patrick Nester, Denis Pajot, Jeff Prizner, Richard Smiley, and Mark Stang for their assistance with and/or contributions to this issue. If you have a comment on this issue, or a photo or a relevant article that you would like to submit for a future issue, please send it to Mark Fimoff, bmarlowe@comcast.net.