

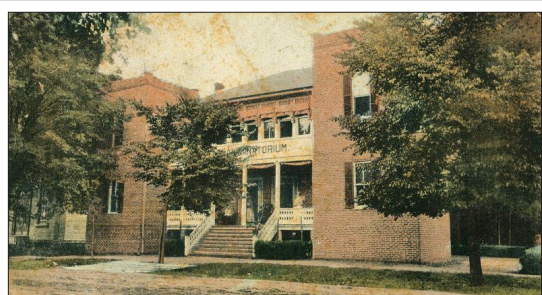
# Pinch Hits, "Tragedy in Tarboro"

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**July 23, 1907 - Tarboro, North Carolina** - Delirious while in the grip of a malarial fever, Preston Day Jones, the starting shortstop for the Tarboro (N.C.) club of the Eastern Carolina League dies after overpowering an attendant at Pittman Sanitarium in Tarboro and throwing himself out of a second-story window to the pavement below.

A recent May graduate of Brown University, Jones is the starting shortstop for Tarboro in the four-team semipro Eastern Carolina League.

The following afternoon, six other Brown University players also playing for Tarboro, request their release from the team to return home. Their request is granted, forcing the team to disband.



Pittman Sanitarium, Tarboro, North Carolina

Some believe that Jones was still suffering from an injury he received during a Yale-Brown game in 1906, where he was hit in the head by a batted ball and was taken from the field unconscious. Following the injury, he remained dazed for almost a week and could not remember anything of his former self.

Born in Providence on May 5, 1885, the 22-year-old Jones appears to recover from the injury and graduates from Brown in May. As a senior, the multi-talented Jones is the school's Republican correspondent and a sophomore in 1905, captures the college's individual tennis championship defeating freshman F.R. Budlong.

With the disbanding of the Tarboro franchise, the Eastern Carolina League, which opened its season on June 10 to much acclaim, ends its season four days later on July 27, with Wilson defeating Newbern 7-1 and Rocky Mount taking the measure of Kinston 3-1.

The first word of his death arrives in Providence with his brother J.D. Jones, manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. Jones "obtains" a telephone connection with officials in Tarboro, but has difficulty in hearing on account of the long-distance call static and has to talk through the operator with little satisfaction.

Later in the week, two more of the Brown University players - Chester Nourse and "Win" Adams - are hospitalized in the Tarboro Sanitarium with the malarial fever. Teammate James Hamilton also remains in Tarboro to assist them as much as possible.

**July 27, 1907 - Columbia, South Carolina** - On the same day that the Eastern Carolina League plays its final games, the six-team South Carolina State (D) League also calls it quits.

At a hastily-called league meeting in Columbia, league directors opt to formally disband the first-year circuit after last-place Darlington (17-29) tells the league that it is calling it quits after reporting a deficit of \$1,500 through the first two months of the season.

Spartanburg, Orangeburg, Sumter vote to continue playing the final two weeks of the season by allowing Florence to take over the struggling Darlington franchise. However, both Greenville and Anderson refuse to enter any league with "low-country" teams as members on account of anticipated poor attendance in those towns.

After Greenville and Anderson officially leave the league, Florence is awarded the Darlington players and the South Carolina State League completes its season as a four-team organization.

## JUMPS FROM WINDOW AND BREAKS HIS NECK

TARBORO BASEBALL PLAYER  
MEETS HORRIBLE DEATH WHILE  
IN A DELIRIUM.

Newbern, N. C., July 24.—The Newbern baseball team returned home this evening from Tarboro, the game there today being called off account of tragic death of one of the Tarboro players last night. P. D. Jones, the player referred to, was in the hospital there and in a fit of delirium jumped from a second story window, breaking his neck in the fall to the ground below. He was a Brown's University man.

The accident and illness of several Tarboro players have occasioned the calling of a meeting of Eastern Carolina League officials at Rocky Mount tonight to consider Tarboro's withdrawal from the league.

### 1907 Eastern Carolina League Final Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Rocky Mount	26	6	.813	--
Wilson	23	13	.639	5
Washington	14	18	.438	12
Kinston	15	23	.394	14
Tarboro	13	21	.382	14
Newbern	11	19	.367	14