

1906 Cotton States League, "Sea Gulls in a Walk"

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"The Cotton States League was one of the strongest minor league organizations in the country this season."
- Weekly Clarion-Ledger

"The Season Has Been a Prosperous One."
- Jackson Daily News

"With the exception of Baton Rouge 'getting in the suds once,' the league's franchises for the most part proved to be financially secure."
- Weekly Clarion-Ledger

1906 Cotton States League - Final Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	Manager
Mobile Sea Gulls	74	44	.627	--	George Reed/Joe Wright/Dusty Miller
Meridian Ribboners	65	54	.546	9.5	Guy Sample
Jackson Senators	58	60	.492	16	Asa Stewart
Gulfport Crabs	58	61	.487	16.5	Eric Miller/John Bolin/Link Stickney
Baton Rouge Cajuns	57	63	.475	18	Bernie McCay
Vicksburg Hill Billies	44	74	.373	30	Billy Earle/Cy Hooker

MOBILE WINS COTTON STATES LEAGUE PENNANT BY GOOD MARGIN

What the Cotton States League season failed to offer in terms of excitement during the summer of 1906 - Mobile, despite going through three managers, wins the pennant by a comfortable nine and one-half games - it more than makes up for it in terms of financial success, league stability, not to mention the usual player and umpire oddities.

When the season ends on September 4, two teams - Mobile and Meridian - reportedly clear a profit and all of the others (but Baton Rouge) break even financially. Part of the league's success is due in no large part to the abilities of first-year president D. Stacy Compton whose adroit handling of the league's problems elicits praise from players, media and team owners alike.

Cotton States League Six No-Hitters

April 29
Meridian's Will Bruner turns in baseball's first no-hitter (major or minor leagues) of the season in a 5-0 victory over Vicksburg.

May 31
Jackson's McCain Robinson walks five but shuts out Vicksburg 2-0 without a safe hit.

June 7
Meridian's Harry Billard no-hits Baton Rouge 1-0 in a game that takes 90 minutes to complete.

July 11
Former major leaguer Bill Dammann of Jackson disposes of Gulfport without a hit in a 1-0 win.

August 5
Baton Rouge commits eight errors, but Jimmy Laird no-hits Jackson 8-0 in a "fast, snappy" game.

August 28
Baton Rouge's Bernie McCay no-hits Vicksburg 3-0, facing only 29 batters ... in addition McCay is 4-for-4 and scores two of the team's three runs.

Starting its fifth season amid much optimism, league owners are confident enough in the stability of the six teams that they elect to raise the team monthly salary cap from the previous season by nine percent, from \$1,100 to \$1,200 for a roster of 12 players.

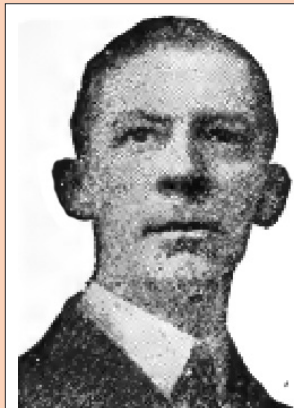
The league is assigned a Class D designation based on the population size of its six franchises and salary structure.

If anything, the 1906 Cotton States League is a pitcher's league. Jackson will lead the circuit in hitting with a less than robust .246 batting average. The league average for all six teams is only .227. Six different pitchers throw no-hitters and there are as many 20-game winners (4) as there are .300 hitters.

In addition to leading the league in hitting with a .314 average, 26-year-old Baton Rouge outfielder Guy Woodruff is also the unofficial leader in home runs with nine (according to newspaper reports of the day). Jackson outfielder Jim Jeffries, who is an actor in New York during the off-season, hits .302 in 104 games and leads the circuit in steals (67) and slugging percentage (.430).

Mobile's Otto Wagner hits only .263, but the Toledo, Ohio, native is second to Jeffries in steals with 52 and leads the circuit in runs scored with 85. Meridian's Leo Huber makes 69 errors at shortstop in 611 chances, but tops all players with 53 sacrifices - 29 more than the next nearest player.

Among mound artists, Mobile's Lee Vernueille is the league leader in wins with 26. Other 20-game winners were Mobile's Bobby White (23), Meridian Will Bruner (23) and Baton Rouge's Bob Geddes



D. Stacy Compton
President, Cotton States League

COTTON STATES OPENING; MOBILE FANS ENTHUSIASTIC

1906 Cotton States League [2 of 10]:

WOODBINE SALOON

Should you want a gallon of whiskey I have nothing cheaper than \$3.00 per gallon or ranging to \$6.00 per gallon. You can also get smaller quantity.

WOODBINE SALOON.

(21). There's a pair of 20-game losers, Vicksburg's Charlie Bishop (22) and Jackson's Louis Hall (20). Hall also leads the league in walks with 88 while teammate McCain Robinson wins 19 games and paces the loop in strikeouts with 197.

Special recognition should be accorded versatile Gulfport player/manager Jack Bolin, who, despite only 194 at bats, is by some newspaper accounts declared the league's batting champion with a .3144 average compared to Woodruff's .3136 mark. Bolin is also 13-10 on the mound for

the fourth-place Crabs. Acquired in July, Mobile's William Phillips proves to be a valuable addition to the Sea Gulls leading the league in winning percentage (.917) with a 11-1 mark.

COTTON STATES CHRONOLOGY

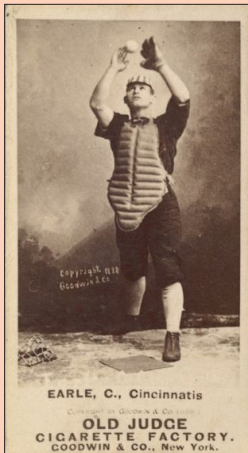
January 15

At a league meeting in Vicksburg, Meridian is admitted as the sixth member of the league and a 12-player per month team salary limit of \$1,200 is approved ... D. Stacy Compton is elected President ... a violation of the salary limit will have a team forfeit its \$300 rights fee ... the season is slated to start on April 19 and end on August 19 ... use of the Goldsmith baseball is adopted and the salary of the umpires is not to exceed \$150 per month ... Greenville, Natchez, Pine Bluff and Monroe fail to make the cut for league membership ... a 120-game schedule is adopted.



February 10

Gulfport names Huntsville outfielder Eric Miller as its manager.



March 2

Vicksburg manager Billy "The Little Globetrotter" Earle announces the signing of 10 players, eight from the Cincinnati area ... the 38-year-old Earle, expected to be the team's starting catcher, is especially pleased to have signed first baseman and Cincinnati native Pete Lyon, however Lyon fails to make the team ... Earle is also leading a gang of laborers putting the Vicksburg grounds "in condition."

March 7

In accepting a position on the umpire staff in the Cotton States League, Joe Burke has league president Compton agreeing to have at least three policemen present at games where he officiates ... other umpires are J.J. Brady and N.B. Turner.



George Textor

Textor makes his professional baseball debut with the Vicksburg Hill Billies in 1906, when he hits .173 in 30 games splitting time between catcher and the outfield before asking to be released. The Newport, Kentucky, native will hit .190 while playing parts of two seasons in the Federal League with the Indianapolis Hoosiers (1914) and the Newark Pepper (1915). Following his pro career, Textor manages several semipro teams in Ohio before becoming the chief of police in Massillon, Ohio.

March 16

League officials decide to extend the season from four months to five, with the season now slated to end on September 3, instead of August 19.

April 7

In a pair of preseason games, Marion (Ala.) Military Academy takes two out of three from the Meridian Ribboners with 6-1, 4-2 wins ... Marion students and town folk plan a "real" welcome for the team when it returns home ... the Academy baseball team will finish the season 11-2 with its two losses coming at the hands of Auburn and Tulane.

April 19

The Cotton States League's fifth season gets underway with all three road teams emerging victorious ... Vicksburg's Ben Reab hurls a six-hit 3-0 shutout of Jackson, Mobile shuts out Gulfport 5-0 on Lee Vernueille's five-hitter and Meridian tops Baton Rouge 3-1.

April 20

Gulfport, behind a seven-hitter by Harry Roberts, evens its record at 1-1 with a 7-3 win over Mobile ... Cranbs' second baseman Thomas Behan is 0-for-4 with a run scored ... five days later Behan is suspended for 30 days by the Gulfport management following an infraction of team rules ... Behan, however, isn't around to start serving the suspension as he is currently in jail for theft.

1906 Cotton States League [3 of 10]:

Tom Behan

April 26
Behan is suspended for 30 days after he jumps his Gulfport contract to play for Morgan City of the semipro Sugar Belt League. At the time of his suspension Behan is in jail for theft. The New Orleans native will return to the diamond and hit a lowly .219 in 64 games splitting time between Gulfport, Baton Rouge and Jackson.

April 27
Jackson attempts to sign pitcher Bugs Raymond, recently released by the Atlanta Crackers ... Raymond will instead sign with the Savannah Indians and win 18 games.

April 29
Meridian's Will Bruner pitches the season's first no-hitter shutting out Vicksburg 5-0

May 2
Once "Again the Bird of Ill-Luck Perches on their Banner" as Vicksburg drops to 1-10 squandering an early 4-0 lead as Gulfport rallies for a 9-4 win ... Tom Toner homers for the Hill Billies but Jack Ryan picks up his second win in three days for the Crabs.

May 3
In a fight for the cellar championship, Mobile, behind a seven-hitter by 26-game winner Lee Verneville, beats Vicksburg 5-2, improving the Sea Gulls' record to 3-9 while Hill Billies fall to 1-11 ... after starting the season with only two wins in its first 11 games, Mobile will finish out the seasons 72-35 for a .673 winning percentage.

May 4
The Birmingham Barons sell 22-year-old pitcher Vanderbilt Pylant to Meridian ... Barons' manager Harry Vaughn claims that the namesake of the millionaire is not "fast enough" for the Southern League ... Pylant, after winning 13 games for the Barons the previous two seasons, will go 11-17 for the Ribboners.

May 7
Vicksburg releases pitchers George Hollis and Joseph Chevalier ... Hollis' play in the outfield during the recent series with Mobile was the reason for his dismissal ... Chevalier, 0-2 in three games for the Hill Billies, signs with a independent team in Jackson.

MOBILE FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING SALARY LIMIT AND MAY BE EXPELLED

that shortstop Woodie Thornton signed with Mobile for less than money (\$85) than what Vicksburg offered (\$125) ... Mobile manager George Reed is severely censured.



Clinton College

Coached by Perry Werden for two seasons (1905-1906), Clinton College's baseball team, led by pitching star Jeff Clarke, is one of the strongest collegiate teams in the state of Mississippi ... Clarke signs with Vicksburg and posts a 14-14 for the last-place Hill Billies before being drafted by Cleveland in the annual minor league draft.

May 8
President Compton confirms that the Mobile Sea Gulls are in violation of the league's salary limit and could be expelled from the Cotton States League ... the original charge, brought by Vicksburg's Frank Scott, alleges

May 9
Mobile owners may appeal the committee's finding that the team violated the league's salary limit.

Vicksburg continues its roster shake up releasing pitcher Bill Ludwig and infielder Pete Lyons while signing 43-year-old Clinton College coach and first baseman Perry "Moose" Werden and his pitching star Jeff Clarke ... Werden will hit a meager .141 with seven doubles and one home run while Clarke will emerge as the team's top pitcher going 14-14 over 31 games.

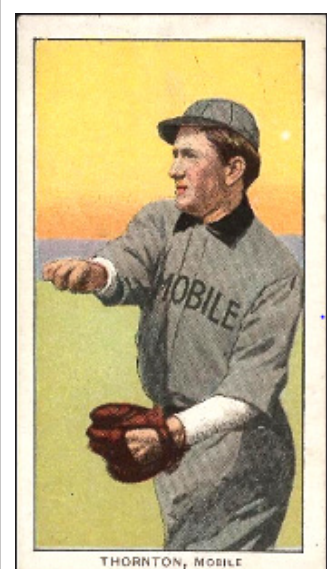
Curves in the Cotton States.

President Compton has received orders from Secretary Farrell not to allow Jack Ryan to play any longer with Gulfport. Secretary Farrell had awarded the player to the Mount Clements (Mich.) team.



Jack Ryan

On April 30, Gulfport's Jack Ryan allows only two hits and strikes out eight in a 5-0 shutout of visiting Vicksburg. Eighteen days later Ryan is ruled ineligible to play for the Crabs and is told to report to the Mt. Clements Bathers of the Southern Michigan (D) League. Once ... once involved in a trade for Cy Young, Ryan will pitch in parts of three seasons in the majors, fashioning a 4-5 mark with a 2.98 ERA.



Woodie Thornton

The cause of Mobile's salary troubles, Thornton is a light-hitting shortstop from California, Pennsylvania. A high school teacher, Thornton begins the season with Montgomery but is released after collecting only three hits in 33 at bats. He then signs with Mobile for less than money (\$85) than what Vicksburg offers (\$125). Thornton jumps his contract with Mobile and signs with Gulfport. Later afflicted with typhoid fever, he returns to his home in Pennsylvania.

1906 Cotton States League [4 of 10]:



Harry Billiard

After winning 39 games in his first two-plus seasons with the Meridian Ribboners, Billiard makes his major league debut with the New York Yankees on July 31, 1908. Following five more years in the minor leagues, the Monroe, Indiana, native will resurface for two seasons in the Federal League. Billiard contracts typhoid fever after drinking water from a contaminated well and passes away on June 3, 1923, in Wooster, Ohio at the age of 39.

May 12

At a special meeting in Mobile, President D.S. Compton reports that the Mobile franchise was not sold as anticipated ... following a private meeting with team officials, Compton tells the media in a midnight interview that he does not believe that officials of the Mobile Association were aware of any violations of the league's salary limit.

May 16

Baton Rouge manager Bernie McCay had attended University of California for six months ... Vicksburg's Billy Earle coached and attended medical classes at Princeton and if the University had not abolished paid coaches, he would have stayed there.

May 21

Mobile owners are told that unless manager George Reed is fired by May 26, the league will take over the running of the franchise.

May 22

National Association President John Farrell informs league president D.S. Compton that Gulfport pitcher Jack Ryan is no longer eligible to play any longer for the Crabs as the strong-armed left-hander is property of the Mount Clements (Mich.) Bathers of the Southern Michigan League ... Compton is also under pressure to come to a decision on the fitness of umpire Burke ... Compton says he needs more evidence before he can fire the arbiter.

May 26

Compton fines Baton Rouge's Bob Woodruff and Jackson's Dickinson \$10 and suspends both players 10 days for fighting.

May 29

The Mobile salary issue is finally settled as the team is declared void with all of its league money forfeited, George Reed is removed as manager and the franchise is turned over to Dr. H.T. Inge.

Cotton States Notes

April 4

Vicksburg pitcher Ben Reab loses two front teeth when he is struck by a bat that slips out of the hands of teammate Joseph Chevalier during batting practice.

June 26

Despite being in first place by a half-game over Baton Rouge with a 30-24 record, the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* opines that the Ribboners "are very much disorganized."

June 26

The *Times-Picayune* also notes that over the past couple of days, several players have "drifted in" from the Pacific Coast League since the San Francisco disaster.

The *Vicksburg Post* opines that four of the league's six teams are currently over the salary limit ... it states the case of Gulfport's "Herculean" first baseman Jack Law reportedly refused a salary of \$200 a month to sign with Nashville at the beginning of the season preferring to sign with the Crabs for a listed \$80 per month.

May 31

Jackson's 20-year-old McCain Robinson turns in the season's third no-hitter when he strikes out one and walks three in a 2-0 win over visiting Vicksburg 2-0 ... Robinson, a native of Lowndesboro, Alabama, later becomes a physician but contracts tuberculous and is confined to his house for three years between from 1916 to 1918 ... pitcher John Sens jumps his contract with Baton Rouge.

June 10

Mobile manager Joe Wright claims that his team has received the "unfairest treatment" at the hands of the league's umpires on the road.

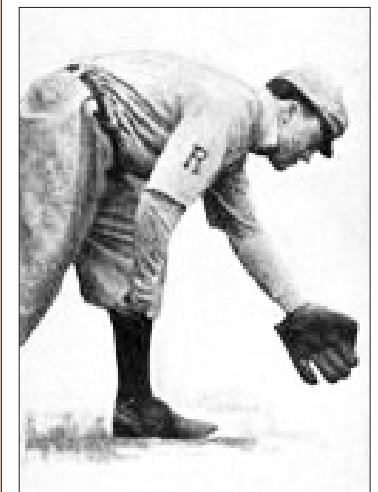
June 11

Dusty Miller, former player with Memphis and Birmingham, has been offered terms to succeed Joe Wright as Mobile's manager.

MILLER'S NEW BERTH

Has Signed to Manage the Mobile Base Ball Club.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 18.—(Special.)—Charles (Dusty) Miller, who has been playing in the South almost continually since his days as a member of the Cincinnati Reds, has accepted terms from Mobile to manage that club in the Cotton States League. Miller will play first base and captain the team, which is in position to take the lead of a close pennant race with a few straight victories. Before signing Miller gained consent of the Nashville manager, who has first claim on Miller.



Albert Landgraff

It speaks to a man's character (or lack thereof) when a team won't pay \$15 for his services. That's what happened to Landgraff in late July of 1906 with the Jackson Senators. Landgraff, who starts the season with Vicksburg before jumping his contract, signs with Jackson and actually plays a couple of games for the Senators before management gets around to asking Vicksburg's permission to play Landgraff. The Hill Climbers tell Jackson they are welcome to Landgraff's services providing they come up with \$15 that he had overdrawn from Vicksburg before he jumped. However Jackson does not care to pay that much and Landgraff is released.

1906 Cotton States League [5 of 10]:



Jeff Clarke

From Mississippi to Manitoba - Jeff Clarke's 11-year professional baseball career takes him from the Deep South to North of the Border. A lefty talented enough to be drafted by the Cleveland Indians five months removed from toiling for Clinton College, Clarke wins 14 games for last-place Vicksburg in his rookie season. The "Southern Prodigal" finishes his career in 1916 with the Northern League's Winnipeg Maroons.

Juiced

The mystery of the lively baseballs that have caused so much trouble in the early part of the Cotton States League season has been solved. It's discovered that the baseballs have been made at the rubber works in Akron, Ohio, and have pneumatic centers tilled with compressed air. Some of them were sneaked into a game and cause a "big rumpus."

Arbitrator Action

League President Stacy Compton is searching for missing umpire Lally, who has disappeared despite being owed some salary. Since umpire Brady suffered broken ribs in a recent game, Compton elects not to force the umpires to call balls and strikes from behind the plate. Following the resignation of umpire Mackie, injured Baton Rouge infielder Bob Tarlton has filled in for a couple of weeks and his work has proved to be "satisfactory." Tarlton returns to the Cajuns and hits .230 in 106 games and play another 12 seasons.

June 14

Meridian misses its train connection and fails to appear for that afternoon's game with Baton Rouge ... Gulfport suspends infielder Tom Reilly without pay for 30 days ... Reilly, a future major leaguer, is replaced by Phil Sanchez, who goes hitless in 11 at bats before being released.

The New Orleans Pelicans express an interest in obtaining Baton Rouge lefty Bob Geddes ... Geddes will finish the season with the Cajuns winning 21 games ... a native of Washington, D.C., Geddes dies in his hometown on October 2.

June 15

A day after New Orleans expresses an interest in obtaining Baton Rouge "moundmans" Bob Geddes, the Cajuns' star pitcher teams with catcher Wilfred Gutierrez to limit visiting Meridian to 20 hits in an 18-1 loss.

June 16

Due to the "crippled condition" of the Vicksburg team, a scheduled doubleheader with visiting Mobile is reduced to a single game ... the Hill Billies post a 4-3 win on Tom Toner's 10th inning single ... Vicksburg suffers a roster depletion as catcher Jim Leighton returns home to Memphis with a possible appendicitis and starting shortstop Joseph Herold is out with a "bad wing."

June 17

Mobile resides in fifth place with a 24-24 mark with 16 of the 24 losses by one run.

June 19

Jackson accuses Meridian of violating the league's salary limit ... Mobile offers to trade shortstop Woodie Thornton to Vicksburg.

The *Jackson Daily News* reports that there is great dissatisfaction by Mobile players and fans attribute it to the fact that the new management is strictly enforcing the league's salary limit and the players are not getting the money they agreed to.

June 23

In Jackson's 4-1 over Baton Rouge, Senators' pitcher McCain Robinson hits Cajuns' left fielder Sam Woodward in the back of the head in the third inning ... two days later Woodward is brought home to Atlanta in critical condition ... the Georgia Tech product will miss the balance of the season, but returns in 1907 and will play five more seasons before calling it quits after the 1911 season ... Woodward played three seasons at Georgia Tech under the legendary John Heisman and was the team captain in 1904.



Sam Woodward

The team captain and starting catcher of the 1904 and 1905 Georgia Tech baseball team, Woodward is hit in the head by a pitch thrown by Jackson's McCain Robinson on June 23 and misses the remainder of the 1906 season.

WOODWARD BROUGHT HOME

Former Tech Catcher Is Still in a Serious Condition as Result of Injury.

Sam Woodward, the Atlanta boy, who for several years was the star catcher of the Tech team, but later with the Baton Rouge in the Cotton States League, was brought home Sunday night by his manager, Bernie McCay, of the Baton Rouge team.

Woodward is said to be in a critical condition. He was hit by a pitched ball last week and has been in a semi-conscious condition ever since. The game in which Woodward was hurt was played in Jackson, Miss., between Baton Rouge and the first named town. Robinson was pitching for Jackson and made a wild pitch. Woodward was at the bat and tried to dodge the wild toss, but the ball was too quick and hit him on the back of the head.

Sam Woodward has been playing the outfield for Baton Rouge, sometimes going in to catch. Sam has been hitting at a wonderful rate, and has numerous friends around the circuit of the Cotton States League.

1906 Cotton States League [6 of 10]:

June 25

Dusty Miller makes his debut as the Mobile manager in a 1-1 six-inning tie against Baton Rouge.

1906 Cotton States League Batting Leaders

Name.	AB.	R.	H.	Pct.
Woodruff, Baton Rouge.....	440	43	138	.314
Bolfn, Gulfport	194	23	61	.314
Stewart, Jackson	416	49	130	.310
Gardner, Meridian	450	48	137	.305
Jeffries, Jackson	388	73	117	.302
Leidy, Mobile	399	59	116	.291
Miller, Mobile	59	8	17	.288
Kinlock, Jackson	80	7	14	.289
Wright, Mobile	433	38	118	.272
McCay, Baton Rouge	387	45	105	.271
Collins, Gulfport	315	42	85	.270
Wagner, Mobile	433	85	114	.263
Stickney, Gulfport	339	45	88	.260
Baird, Jackson	462	62	120	.260
Gettinger, Jackson	391	23	98	.251
Sample, Meridian	426	34	107	.251
Miller, Gulfport	108	10	27	.250
Braun, Vicksburg	190	18	47	.247
Holland, Gulfport	281	19	69	.246
Landgraft, Vicksburg	57	5	14	.246

Artie Goodwin, the "curveless wonder" signs with Mobile after being released by Memphis back on May 1 for being "too fat." ... Goodwin later (August 1) asks for and receives his release from the Sea Gulls ... four days after receiving his release, Goodwin is named to league's umpire roster ... the *Jackson Daily News* opines that "Artie is too fat to pitch, and it is the devout hope of the fans that he will not be too lazy to umpire."

June 30

Despite being in third place with a 31-29 record, Baton Rouge, because of lagging attendance, sells the franchise, including players, to Monroe, Louisiana.



"Curveless Wonder"

One of several players of his era to earn the nickname "Curveless Wonder," Artie Goodwin is on preseason roster of the Southern Association's Memphis Egyptians, but refuses to take to the mound for manager Charlie Babb contending that the club still owes him the cost of transportation to his home in Albany, New York, at the close of the 1905 season. Released by the Egyptians on May 1 for being "too fat," Goodwin signs with Mobile on June 25. After appearing in a couple of games for the Sea Gulls, Goodwin asks for, and receives, his release on August 1 because of an injury. Four days after receiving his release, Goodwin is named to Cotton States League's umpire roster. The *Jackson Daily News* opines that "Artie is too fat to pitch, and it is the devout hope of the fans that he will not be too lazy to umpire." At the end of the season, Goodwin becomes the manager of the Gulfport (Miss.) Opera House.

July 2

Vicksburg signs catcher "Cotton" Jones of Magnolia, Mississippi, to replace Tennessee native Roy Terrell, who is hitless in 12 at bats ... "Cotton" continues the tradition failing to garner a safety in six at bats before being released.

July 4

President Compton reports that the net receipts of the 4th of July games are Meridian (\$1,003.05), Mobile (\$780), Jackson (\$767), attendance figures are not available ... Monroe representative L.R. Powers arrives in Baton Rouge with \$1,000 in hand to take over the franchise, but finds out that concerned citizens of the city have raised \$2,000 to keep the team in the Capital City.

July 7

So "thoroughly disgusting" is Mobile's win at Jackson, that the game's official scorer leaves his box in the seventh inning and refuses to further officiate ... in the scorer's absence, an official box score is not available.

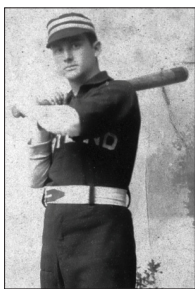
July 8

How bad are things in Vicksburg?

Following eight straight defeats and saddled with a 23-42 record, Vicksburg manager Billy Earle resigns and veteran Perry Werden is let go after being given an "icy mitt." ... Earle is succeeded by centerfielder Cy Hooker, while Werden is hitting .141 with only one home in 49 games ... pitcher Ben Reab is let go and Charlie Elsey, a 35-year-old umpire, is signed and starts at first base ... Reab is resigned a couple of days later and finishes the season 15-19.

Tent City

Vicksburg's Perry Werden (bottom) and Tom Toner erect a tent and establish bachelors' quarters at the Vicksburg ball park. Werden is the cook while Toner is the woodchopper and does other chores. Werden later is appointed an umpire in the American League by president Ban Johnson.



July 16

Vicksburg pitcher Zeke Stewart, fearing that he would be released after six appearances, jumps the team and returns to his farm in Brookhaven, Mississippi.

July 27

The league restores George Reed to "good standing" as manager of the Mobile team succeeding Dusty Miller, who had to leave the team when the National Commission awarded him to Nashville by a prior and existing contract.

August

The Jackson franchise appeals a \$100 fine for a game with Meridian when the team refused to play.

1906 Cotton States League [7 of 10]:

August 1

Of the eight players that then Vicksburg manager Billy Earle brought with him from Cincinnati back in March, only one - pitcher Ben Reab is still on the team - and even he was released for a couple of games in mid-July ... the *Jackson Daily News* opines, "The crowd which came down from Cincinnati simply could not play ball. That was evident when they made their first appearance on the local diamond."

August 2

Jackson forfeits its afternoon game at Baton Rouge when most of the team oversleeps and miss the morning train ... "Red" Wright is named manager of the Mobile Sea Gulls after George Reed "declines" to act in that capacity ... the Sea Gulls win five of their first seven games under Wright.

August 5

Baton Rouge's Jimmy Laird no-hits Jackson in a "fast, snappy game."

Not so fast, Jackson players say the no-hit game is due to the "liberality" of the official scorer as they claim that Jackson's James Baird "rapped" a two-base hit that the Cajun outfielder failed to get under and the official scorer charged it incorrectly as a two-base error.

August 20 - Mangled Mound Artists

Mobile has new gray uniforms with blue stockings and caps ... the newly-clad Sea Gulls win the opener of a three-game series in Jackson 12-9 ... Mobile starter Bob White is "mangled almost beyond recognition," but emerges victorious because Senators' starter Willie Damman was "even more badly mangled" ... with the win, Mobile opens a nine-game lead on Meridian, a 2-1 loser to last-place Vicksburg, despite out-hitting Hill Climbers 7-to-3.

By a mail vote of the league directors the \$100 fine recently imposed on the Jackson team for walking off the field at Meridian has been remitted.

August 22

The Mobile newspaper opines the Cotton States League pennant is all but assured for the hometown Sea Gulls:

"With barely over two weeks yet to play, the only way local fans can figure on losing is for Lee Verneuille to break an arm. Wright to lose a leg and other members of the team to monkey with buzz saws, live wires and other foolish twentieth century things that might maim or injure."

August 26 - Sea Gulls Clinch

Mobile clinches the city's first-ever pennant in baseball with a 2-1 loss to Jackson ... coupled with Meridian's 1-0 setback to visiting Gulfport, the Sea Gulls own a eight-game lead with two weeks left to play.

August 28

Providing cotton prices bring a good price in the coming sale season, the Louisiana town of Greenville may make an application for membership into the Cotton States League in 1907.

August 30

Vicksburg, behind the four-hit pitching of 20-year-old Jeff Clark, beats Meridian 2-1, despite the visiting Ribboners pulling off a triple play.

MOBILE WINS COTTON STATES LEAGUE PENNANT BY GOOD MARGIN

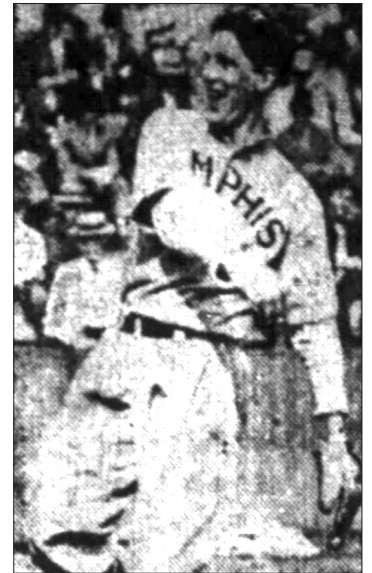
Meridian Second and Jackson Third--Last
Game With Meridian Prevented by
Rain--Players Reserve.

September 1

Baton Rouge suspends catcher Wilfred Gutierrez, who is hitting .194, for his "poor playing."

September 2

Vicksburg pitcher Charles Bishop offers team management \$200 for his release. Bishop, who will finish the season 11-22, wants to get away from a "tail-ender" to more respectable team ... his offer is refused.



Rudy Schwenck

Despite being an early season hold-out in 1909 to stay at his distillery job in Cincinnati, and armed with only a 7-12 mark with the Memphis Turtles, Schwenck parlays an earlier 57-inning scoreless streak into a three-game major league trial with the Chicago Cubs at the end of the season. Schwenck is credited by many newspapers as introducing the spitball to major league baseball.

Rudy Schwenck, who died recently in Louisville, was credited with introducing the spitball to organized baseball.

1906 Cotton States League [8 of 10]:

Death Robs "Bob" Geddes Of Great Baseball Career

Bob Geddes

Following an illness of 10 days, Baton Rouge right-hander Bob Geddes passes away in his hometown of Washington, D.C., on October 2, due to complications from typhoid fever. Geddes played the entire preseason with the Southern League's New Orleans Pelicans before being farmed out to the Baton Rouge Crabs of the Cotton States League. A military veteran, Geddes first achieves success pitching for a calvary troop stationed in the Philippines. Returning stateside, he makes his pro debut in 1905 with the Pine Bluff Lumberman and the Jackson Blind Tigers.

Two days before the season ends, Baton Rouge sells 19-game winner James Laird to the Memphis Egyptians of the Southern (A) Association. Laird makes his Egyptian debut on final day of the Southern Association season (September 5), pitching a 7-1 six-hit complete game win against a Cracker lineup that boasts six future major leaguers. In earning his 20th win of the season, the Pensacola, Florida, native strikes out five and walks only one. In the off-season, Laird's contract is picked up by the New Orleans Pelicans. The following spring, Laird is one of three Pelican players who refuse to report to the team and are sold to Gulfport of the Cotton States League in 1907, where he will finish 4-4 in 12 games.

September 4

The 1906 season comes to an end with Mobile owning a six 1/2 game lead over second-place Meridian ... Baton Rouge's Guy Woodruff wins the league's batting title with a .314 average.

COTTON STATES POSTSCRIPT

The Baton Rouge franchise and players are first transferred to Monroe, Louisiana, and then later to Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Later, Baton Rouge, a founding member of the Cotton States League in 1902, files an appeal to stop the transfer of the franchise to Hattiesburg but ultimately loses the appeal. Minor league baseball will not be played again in the Capital City for 23 seasons.

St. Louis native Bill Phillips is 11-1 with Mobile. Vicksburg's Jeff Clarke is selected in the minor league draft by the Cleveland Indians and Baton Rouge's Guy Woodruff is sold to Cleveland for \$300.

D. Stacy Compton tells league owners that he will not continue as league president in 1907. His work had been so exemplary that the owners planned on raising his salary from \$300 to \$500 at the next meeting.

Baton Rouge Cajuns



COTTON STATES BOX SCORES

May 8, 1906
Mobile Sea Gulls at Meridian Ribboners
Meridian Base Ball Park

MOBILE.						
	A.	B.	R.	H.	P.	E.
Prout, 2b.....	6	2	3	4	2	0
Thornton, ss.....	4	2	1	1	2	0
Lelley, c.f.....	6	3	1	1	0	0
Wagner, l.f.....	5	2	2	1	0	0
Wright, 1b.....	4	0	2	12	1	0
Hankey, 3b.....	3	0	0	3	2	0
McDivitt, r.f.....	4	0	0	3	0	1
Meir, c.....	4	1	0	1	1	0
Doremus, p.....	5	2	1	1	2	1
Totals	41	12	13	27	10	2

MERIDIAN.						
	A.	B.	R.	H.	P.	E.
Gaston, c.f. & p.....	5	1	1	4	1	2
Huber, ss.....	4	1	1	2	3	0
Gardner, l.f.....	4	0	1	1	0	0
Devore, r.f.....	5	1	1	1	0	0
Sample, c.....	4	2	2	8	2	0
White, 1b.....	8	0	2	10	6	3
Brown, 2b.....	8	0	0	1	1	2
Russell, 3b.....	4	0	0	1	6	0
Pylant, p. & c.f.....	3	0	1	1	1	0
Totals	35	5	9	27	14	7

By Innings—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mobile.....	0	0	4	5	1	0	0	1	—12
Meridian.....	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	—5

Summary: Innings pitched—By Doremus 8, by Pylant 4, by Gaston 5. Hits surrendered—Off Doremus 8, off Pylant 8, off Gaston 5. Three-base hits—Huber, Thornton. Two-base hits—White, Lelley, Wagner. Sacrifice hits—Wright, Huber. Stolen bases—Lelley. First base on balls—Off Doremus 4, off Pylant 3, off Gaston 3. Struck out—By Doremus 1, by Pylant 3, by Gaston 1. Hit by pitched ball—By Gaston 1 (McDivitt). Time of game—2 hours. Umpire—Brady.

Vanderbilt Pylant

Acquired from the Birmingham Barons on May 4, William Vanderbilt Pylant yields nine runs in only four innings of work in his Meridian debut on May 8. Barons' manager Harry Vaughn claims that the namesake of the millionaire is not "fast enough" for the Southern League. After winning 13 games for the Barons the previous two seasons, the Petersburg, Tennessee, native will go 11-17 for the Ribboners in 1906. It was said of the right-handed Pylant he is "a kid who has nothing, but whose balls are never driven anywhere."

Pylant's Curves Could Not be Located at All, Nobody Got a Pass and Ten Struck Out.

April 29, 1906
Meridian Ribboners at Vicksburg Hill Billies
Athletic Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi

MERIDIAN.						
	A.	B.	R.	H.	P.	E.
Gaston, c. f.....	5	0	2	6	0	0
Huber, ss.....	5	0	0	0	1	0
Gardner, l. f.....	5	0	3	3	0	0
Devore, r. f.....	4	0	1	0	0	0
Sample, c.....	5	1	1	6	0	0
White, 1b.....	4	1	1	10	0	0
Brown, 2b.....	4	1	1	2	4	1
Bambrough, 3b.....	3	1	0	0	2	0
Bruner, p.....	2	1	0	0	1	0
Totals	37	5	9	27	8	1

VICKSBURG.						
	A.	B.	R.	H.	P.	E.
McEvoy, 2b.....	4	0	0	1	4	1
Texter, c.....	4	0	0	6	1	0
Hooker, c. f.....	2	0	0	2	0	0
Toner, 3b.....	3	0	0	2	3	1
Lyons, 1b.....	2	0	0	12	0	0
Hugel, ss.....	8	0	0	0	3	2
Hollis, l. f.....	3	0	0	1	0	0
Critchlow, r. f.....	3	0	0	2	0	0
Chevalier, p.....	2	0	0	1	1	0
*Earle.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	0	0	27	12	4

By Innings—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Meridian.....	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	—5
Vicksburg.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—0

Summary: Two-base hits—Gardner, Sample. First base on balls—Off Chevalier 3. Stolen bases—Gardner, Gaston. Struck out—By Chevalier 6, by Bruner 6. Hit by pitcher—Bruner, Hooker. Sacrifice hits—Lyons, Bruner. Time of game—2 hours and 10 minutes. Umpire—Brady.

Will Bruner

Meridian right-hander Will Bruner turns in the season's first no-hitter (major or minor leagues) in a 5-0 victory over the Vicksburg Hill Billies. Bruner strikes out six and does not walk a batter en route to becoming the third Meridian pitcher in as many days to shut out the Hill Billies. Bruner will finish the season 23-13 for the Ribboners with 19 shut-outs (according to the New Orleans Times-Picayune) yielding only one hit six times and two hits four times. His performance earns the Baileytown, Tennessee, native a call-up to the Birmingham Barons in September.

**NO-RUN, NO-HIT GAME
PITCHED BY BRUNER**

May 31, 1906
Jackson Senators at Vicksburg Hill Billies
Athletic Park, Vicksburg, Mississippi

JACKSON:						
	A.	B.	R.	H.	P.	E.
Baird, 3b.....	5	1	1	0	1	1
Jeffries, r. f.....	4	0	1	1	0	1
Stewart, 2b.....	3	0	1	4	2	0
Thompson, l. f.....	4	0	1	5	0	0
Tilford, 3b.....	4	1	0	1	6	0
Gettinger, c. f.....	4	0	1	0	0	0
Sailiard, 1b.....	3	0	1	11	0	0
Petit, c.....	3	0	1	3	1	0
Robinson, p.....	3	0	0	2	6	1
Totals	33	2	7	27	14	3

VICKSBURG:						
	A.	B.	R.	H.	P.	E.
McEvoy, r. f.....	3	0	0	2	0	0
Hooker, c. f.....	3	0	0	6	0	0
Toner, 3b.....	3	0	0	0	1	0
Werden, 1b.....	3	0	0	12	0	0
Bell, 2b.....	3	0	0	1	6	0
McDivitt, l. f.....	3	0	0	1	0	0
Texter, c.....	4	0	0	5	1	0
Herold, s. s.....	3	0	0	1	2	1
Bishop, p.....	2	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	27	0	0	27	11	1

By Innings—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jackson.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	—2
Vicksburg.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—0

Score by innings:
Jackson..... 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0—2
Vicksburg..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
Summary: Stolen base, Stewart; two base hits, Baird, Stewart; double play, Bishop to Herold to Werden; struck out, Bishop 4, Robinson 1; bases on balls, Bishop 1, Robinson 3; sacrifice hits, Hooker, Toner; time, 1:30; umpires Hall and Reab.

In a game described as lacking snap and "devoid of particular interest," Jackson rookie McCain Robinson pitches the season's third no-hitter in a 2-0 win over last-place Vicksburg. Two years later, Robinson will return to Tulane University to begin his medical studies.

Pitcher Barred.
MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 10.—(Special.)—McCain Robinson, former Birmingham and Jackson professional pitcher, who has been pitching for Tulane University in games in Mississippi, was barred today from playing against Millsaps College, and has returned to Tulane to resume his medical course.

COTTON STATES BOX SCORES

June 7, 1906

Baton Rouge Cajuns at Meridian Ribboners
Meridian Base Ball Park, Meridian, Mississippi

Meridian—	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Gaston, cf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Huber, ss	4	1	1	4	2	0
Alcock, 3b	4	0	1	0	2	1
Gardner, lf	4	0	0	1	0	0
Devore, rf	4	0	1	0	0	0
Sample, c	4	0	2	6	3	0
White, 1b	3	0	0	12	1	0
Brown, 2b	2	0	0	1	4	1
Billiard, p	3	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	32	1	5	27	14	2

Baton Rouge—	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Woodward, cf	3	0	0	2	0	0
McMillan, ss	2	0	0	1	2	0
Woodruff, lf	3	0	0	6	0	0
McCay, 2b	3	0	0	0	2	0
Tarleton, 1b	2	0	0	4	1	0
Duke, 3b	3	0	0	2	0	0
Gutterriez, c	3	0	0	5	0	0
Sens, rf	2	0	0	0	0	0
Laird, p	3	0	0	1	6	1
Cummings, 1b	1	0	0	5	0	1
Totals	25	0	0	26	11	2

*Two out when winning run was scored.

By Innings:						
Baton Rouge	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meridian	0	0	0	0	0	1

Summary: Stolen bases—Sample, Devore. Bases on balls—Off Billiard 2, off Laird 1. Struck out—By Billiard 6, by Laird 5. Sacrifice hit—McMillan. Double plays—Brown to Huber to White; McCay to McMillan to Cummings. Time—1:32. Umpire—Burke.

Meridian right-hander Harry Billiard no-hits visiting Baton Rouge 1-0. The Ribboners push across the game's only run on three singles in the bottom of the ninth for the win. Shortstop Leo Huber scores the winning run with two outs on a single by catcher Guy Sample.

July 11, 1906

Jackson Senators at Gulfport Crabs
Gulfport, Mississippi

GULFPORT.

	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Stickney, r.f.	3	0	0	0	0	0
O'Brien, c.	3	0	0	13	0	0
Mureh, 3b.	3	0	0	3	0	0
Law, 1b.	3	0	0	6	0	0
Bolin, r.f.	3	0	0	2	1	0
Reilly, s.s.	3	0	0	0	2	0
Holland, 2b.	3	0	0	1	0	0
Krebs, l.f.	4	0	0	1	0	0
Roberts, l.f.	4	0	0	1	0	0

Totals 30 0 0 27 3 0

JACKSON.

	A.B.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Baird, 3b.	4	0	0	1	0	0
Robinson, l.f.	4	0	0	0	0	0
Jeffries, r.f.	4	0	1	3	0	0
Stewart, 2b.	3	0	0	0	0	0
Gettinger, c.f.	3	0	1	2	0	0
Saillard, 1b.	3	0	0	10	0	0
Tilford, s.s.	3	0	0	1	0	0
Petit, c.	3	1	0	7	0	0
Damman, p.	3	0	0	0	5	0

Totals 30 1 2 27 5 0

In one of the season's fastest games, former major leaguer Bill Dammann turns in the fifth no-hitter of the Cotton States League season, beating Gulfport 1-0. Dammann, a 16-game winner for the Cincinnati Reds in 1898, will win only six games for the Senators in 1906.

August 5, 1906

Baton Rouge Cajuns at Jackson Senators
Athletic Park, Jackson, Mississippi

BAT. ROUGE—	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Hankey, 3b.	2	0	1	0	0	0
Woodward, r. f.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Woodruff, 2b.	4	0	0	1	3	0
Boyd, c. f.	3	0	0	0	0	1
Tarleton, 1b.	4	2	2	16	1	0
Geddes, l. f.	3	1	0	0	0	0
McMillan, ss.	3	0	2	2	6	0
Gutterriez, c.	4	0	2	8	4	0
Laird, p.	3	0	1	0	4	2

Totals 23 3 8 27 18 3

JACKSON—	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Jeffries, r. f.	4	0	0	0	1	0
Baird, 3b.	2	0	0	2	0	0
Sens, l. f.	3	0	0	1	0	0
Stewart, 2b.	2	0	0	4	2	0
Robinson, c. f.	3	0	0	0	0	0
Saillard, 1b.	2	0	0	5	0	1
Dodson, ss.	3	0	0	4	0	2
Petit, c.	3	0	0	8	4	0
Nickens, p.	3	0	0	0	3	0

Totals 25 0 0 24 10 3

Score by Innings—						R
Baton Rouge	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	0

Baton Rouge's Jimmy Laird no-hits Jackson in a "fast, snappy game." Not so fast. Jackson players say the no-hit game is due to the "liberality" of the official scorer as they claim that Senators' third baseman James Baird "rapped" a two-base hit that the Cajuns' outfielder failed to get under and the official scorer charged it incorrectly as a two-base error.