

Erastus Grigg, "Appalachian League's Forgotten Man"

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On February 10, 1939, Ted Wingfield, president of the Appalachian League champion Elizabethton (Tenn.) Betsy Red Sox labels his team's left fielder, and league batting champion, Erastus Grigg, as the circuit's "forgotten man" and blames the situation on the delay in the issuance of the league's final statistics from the 1938 season.

Wingfield believes that the delay in the publication of the final statistics - released on February 3rd and still incomplete - has hindered the advancement of Grigg, first baseman Newell Benton (.300), second baseman Burton Hodge (.295) and other players in the league to higher classifications.

The league's beleaguered statistician blames the six month delay on 20 missing games played at Pennington Gap, Newport and Greenville.

Born Thurman Erastus Grigg on February 12, 1914, in Shelby, North Carolina, Grigg graduates from High Point (N.C.) College in 1938, with a degree in business, and is a three-year starter on the school's baseball team, finishing second as a senior to Wayne "Tige" Harris (.431) in batting with a .403 average.

Following his junior year, Grigg is one of three High Point players committing to play with the Thomasville (N.C.) Chair Makers of the North State

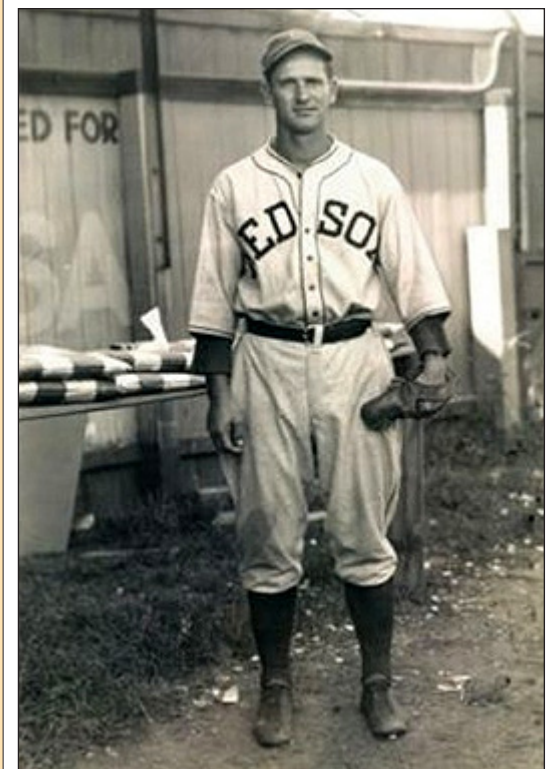


1937 High Point College Panthers

(D) League. Since his signing is announced in the school paper and fearing a loss of eligibility, Grigg instead elects to play with the Appalachian State (D) League's Elizabethton Red Sox, and plays under an assumed name.

Playing under the alias "Russell Brown", Grigg has a more than productive minor league debut, pounding out nine doubles, 13 triples and three home runs and finishing second in the league with a .343 batting average.

Following graduation from High Point in the spring of 1938, and now free to use his real name, Grigg returns to Elizabethton and captures the Appalachian League batting title with a .351 average. He also ties with teammate Clovis White and Johnson City's John Hobson for the league leadership in home runs with six.



Erastus Grigg
1938 Elizabethton Red Sox

Erastus Grigg Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	G	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVG
1935	High Point College	North State	Coll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	----
1936	High Point College	North State	Coll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	----
1937	High Point College	North State	Coll	20	77	21	-	-	-	-	.272
1937	Thomasville	North State	SPro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	----
1937	Elizabethton Betsy Red Sox	Appalachian	D	75	289	99	9	13	3	52	.343
1938	High Point College	North State	Coll	21	72	-	29	-	-	-	.403
1938	Elizabethton Betsy Red Sox	Appalachian	D	83	322	113	14	3	6	51	.351
1939	2 Teams	2 Leagues	D	123	485	155	22	7	6	52	.320
	Welch Miners	Mountain State	D	73	298	95	15	4	4	43	.319
	Elizabethton Betsy Red Sox	Appalachian	D	50	187	60	7	3	2	19	.321
1940	Greenwood Chocktaws	Cotton States	C	134	560	162	22	13	2	38	.289
	Minor League Totals	4 Seasons		415	1656	529	67	36	17	203	.319

All-Star: 1937-Appalachian League; 1938-Appalachian League

White later claims some national headlines on October 2, 1938, when he, Ray Kemp and Myrtie Marsh, catch an 18-pound muskie measuring 38 inches on a rod and reel in the Moss Hole on the Barren River near Scottsville, Kentucky.

Erastus Grigg [2 of 2]:

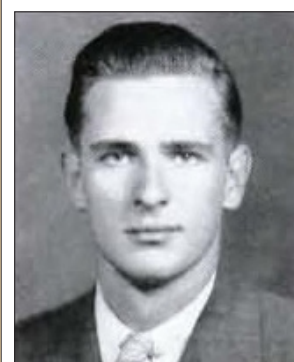
In each of his two seasons with the Red Sox, Grigg is named to the league's all-star team.

Still the property of Elizabethton, Grigg begins the 1939 season on a 10-day trail with the Welch Miners of the Mountain State (D) League. Returned by Welch to Elizabethton during the second week in May, Grigg is hitting .321 when he is sent back to the Miners in exchange for outfielder John Mervar, who is hitting only .244 in 24 games. Grigg hits a combined .320, tying a career-best with six home runs and driving home 52 runs while splitting time between the Miners and the Red Sox.

In his final minor league season in 1940, Grigg hits .289 with two home runs and 38 RBIs, for the Greenwood Chocktaws of the Cotton States (C) League in his final minor league season.

Despite Pearl Harbor being more than a year away, Grigg enlists in the U.S. Army on September 14, 1940, and is discharged on October 29, 1945. He reenlists on June 10, 1946 and remains in another 25 years until his discharge in until June 30, 1971.

Grigg passes away on December 25, 1986, in Petersburg, Virginia at the age of 72.



Erastus Grigg
1937 High Point Yearbook

Waldo Jackley Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	AVG	
1908	Fairmont Badies	Penn-WV Virginia	D	231	59	-	-	-	.255	
1909	Fairmont Champions	Penn-WV Virginia	D	236	77	-	-	-	.326	
1910	Fairmont Champions	West Virginia	D	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1910	Haverhill Hustlers	New England	B	93	24	6	1	1	.258	
1911	3 Teams	3 Leagues C-B-A		183	60	8	4	3	.328	
1911	Lancaster Red Roses	Tri-State	B	53	14	-	-	1	.264	
1911	Steubenville Stubs	Ohio-Penn	C	130	46	8	4	3	.354	
1911	Columbus Senators	American Assoc.	A	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1912	Marion Orphans/Ironton Diggers	Ohio State	D	392	140	38	7	11	.357	
1913	2 Teams	2 Leagues D-B		332	80	15	4	8	.241	
1913	Ironton Nailers	Ohio State	D	190	50	11	2	7	.263	
1913	Dallas Giants	Texas	B	142	30	4	2	1	.211	
1914	Ironton Nailers	Ohio State	D	171	45	4	4	4	.263	
1915	Huntington Babes	Ohio State	D	-	-	-	-	-	---	
1918	Ironton Nailers	Ohio State	Ind	-	-	-	-	-	---	
Minor League Totals				8 Seasons	1638	485	71	20	27	.296

1913 - Leads Ohio State League in doubles (38), home runs (11) and batting (.357).