

On This Date **December 19, 1903**

Philadelphia native and minor league baseball player [Dave Calhoun's "bruised and battered body"](#) is found under a log and concealed by brush on a farm a few miles outside of [Indian Springs, Indiana](#).

Calhoun leaves amateur baseball in Philadelphia in 1896 to play with several teams in the Central Pennsylvania League. Considered one of the most promising players in the region because of his size, Calhoun never quite realizes his potential because as one article in his final season describes him as, "was addicted to drink."

In 1899, Calhoun has a career year hitting .265 with 21 doubles, seven triples and two home runs splitting time between the Eastern League's Syracuse Stars and the Richmond Blue Birds of the Atlantic League. In 1902, Calhoun is hitting .246 in 55 games for the Omaha Indians of the Western (A) League when he is first spiked and then later contracts a severe case of blood poisoning.

In 1903, Calhoun is rooming in [Terre Haute, Indiana](#) with a local bartender named Franklin King. Described as being "hard up" for money, Calhoun leaves two weeks before his death for [Jasonville, Indiana](#), in hopes of finding work in the local coal mines there. King, who loaned Calhoun one of his shirts, reads about his roommate's death in the newspaper and arrives in Indian Springs to identify the body. Two days later, Calhoun's body is shipped East for burial with expenses covered by the Eagles, an amateur team he had played with in his youth.

BALLPLAYER MURDERED. Dave Calhoun's battered Body found near Indian Springs, Ind.

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 19.—Dave Calhoun of Philadelphia was murdered near Indian Springs, Ind., a few days ago. His bruised and battered body was yesterday found on a farm a few miles from that town. It was concealed by brush and logs. The man had been sandbagged or beaten about the head with heavy instruments. This is the telegraphic information received here today.

Calhoun was among the best known and liked baseball players of the Middle West. A few years ago, when he left an amateur team in Philadelphia to play with the Atlantic League, and later was with the New York State League, he was considered among the most promising of players. He was a first baseman, being unusually large and powerful. He was a splendid batter. Calhoun came West two years ago to play with the Omaha club. He was addicted to drink and was released by Omaha after an accident and an operation which detracted from his usefulness. Last season he played with Evansville, Wheeling and Springfield and umpired in the Central League.

Mrs. Calhoun of Philadelphia is now in Terre Haute.