

Searching for Powell

Powell played in the outfield in three games and pinch hit in a fourth in May, 1913 for the St. Louis Terriers. The only clue as to his identity at the time comes from a blurb in the St. Louis Globe Democrat on May 20 (pg. 10): "Mullin, pitcher; Brown, infielder; Witter, outfielder; Miller, outfielder; Jack Powell – not "Big Jack" – outfielder, are the new players signed up by [manager] O'Connor since leaving the city." "Big Jack" was pitcher Jack Powell (powelja01), who finished his sixteenth (and ultimately final) MLB season in 1912 playing with the St. Louis Browns, and who was pitching for Louisville in 1913 – clearly not the mystery Powell.

There is an intriguing follow-up in 1914. The newspapers in El Paso, Texas, reported on the club in Hurley, New Mexico, which played in the Copper League. "Powell, who comes from the Federal league, is an around man, is a hard sticker, a good base runner, and a good fielder, and will probably be used in the outfield" (El Paso Herald, March 28, 1914, pg. 16). He was released in June. "Jack Powell, who was secured from the Federal League, has been given his release by Riser. Jack was a good ball player when in condition" (El Paso Herald, June 22, 1914, pg. 7). There is only one Powell on the rosters of the Federal League clubs in Baseball-Reference: the mystery Powell from St. Louis. Maybe he wound up in Hurley, New Mexico in 1914?

Baseball-Reference has a second Jack Powell (powelja02) who pitched for the Browns in two games in 1913. This Jack Brown, described as a former University of Michigan pitcher in the game articles, made his debut for St. Louis on July 14, 1913 in Boston and pitched his final game on July 9, also in Boston. He has been identified as Reginald Bertrand Powell, age 21 in 1913. In 1914, he voiced "Chaokia" in a "pageant with which in St. Louis hopes to lure the rubes a hundred miles in every direction" (Dunklin Democrat (Kennett, Missouri), May 15, 1914). He was a student at Washington University at the time. Tragically, he died in Chattanooga in 1930 when he choked on a steak, which he was trying to eat in a single bite. Given that he was a pitcher, it is not likely he would have been tried in right field by manager O'Connor. Nor could he have been the Powell who played in Hurley, as he was voicing Cahokia in St. Louis at the time.

There is one minor league Jack Powell (powell001jac) in the time frame of the St. Louis Terriers. According to Baseball-Reference, he played for Vicksburg (MS) in 1912 and Sioux Falls (SD) in 1921. According to the Vicksburg Evening Post (March 19, 1912, pg. 3) "C.J. Powell, outfielder, joined the Vicksburg ball squad last night. Powell played with the Texas league last year." He broke his foot in late May, and just as he was recovering, he was released. "Jack Powell, placed in the local baseball discard, has hiked to Chicago" (Vicksburg Evening Post, July 31, 1912, pg. 5). It isn't clear what happened to him after he left Vicksburg, but what about this connection to the Texas League in 1911?

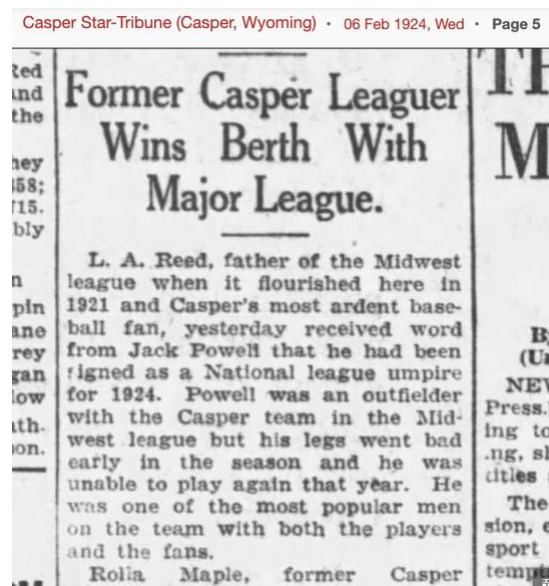
"Jack Powell, the slugging outfielder who opened the season with Houston last year, was exchanged to Galveston for Riggs, and later went to the Austin pennant winners, is in Houston en route to the South Atlantic, where he expects to play this year" (Houston Post, March 5,

1912, pg. 3). Baseball-Reference identifies Powell for Houston/Galveston/Austin as William Powell (powell008wil), with Bloomington in 1905 and Mobile in 1916. I haven't looked at the Bloomington connection, but the player for Mobile was likely Watts Powell (Birmingham News, May 13, 1915, pg. 8). And the Houston Post published a full roster of the 1911 Buffaloes on March 12, 1911 (pg. 19), identifying Jack Powell, aged 24, from Denver, Colorado. It looks like Jack Powell with Vicksburg was Jack Powell from the Texas League in 1911. But what about the connection to Sioux Falls?

Jack Powell tracks from Casper, Wyoming, through Aberdeen, South Dakota to Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 1921. Unfortunately, there is no connection indication of his previous career record in the papers. His last appearance in Sioux Falls was mid-September. The trail goes cold, until in 1924 we catch a break. The Casper Star-Tribune relates that Jack Powell, former Casper outfielder, was hired as an umpire by the National League (February 6, 1924). He has a page on Baseball-Reference ([https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Jack Powell \(umpire\)](https://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Jack_Powell_(umpire))).

We don't have a connection between all of our Jack Powells, but we now have concrete information on both the player for Houston/Galveston/Austin/Vicksburg (from the Houston Post) and the player from Casper/Aberdeen/Sioux Falls/MLB Umpire. According to the latter's Sporting News Umpire Card, he was married in Denver, CO in January 1909... consistent with the Houston Post's note that Jack Powell was from Denver, CO. The age in the Denver Post (24), suggests a birth date in 1887, while the umpire was born in 1885. And our umpire's full name is Cornelius Joseph Powell – C.J. Powell. It looks like they are one and the same person!

But where does that leave our mystery Powell? The final connection was found in an interview with umpire Jack Powell, published in the Salt Lake Tribune on May 5, 1954, in which he states he played in the Federal League in 1913.



Jack Powell, former Casper outfielder, became NL umpire in 1924

Powell

Four games between May 16 and May 20 (3 in right field, one pinch hitting)

First two in Pittsburgh, last two in Indianapolis

St. Louis Globe-Democrat (St. Louis, Missouri) • 20 May 1913, Tue • Page 10

able start in a financial way.
Mullin, pitcher; Brown, infielder; Witter, outfielder; Miller, outfielder; Jack Powell—not "Big Jack"—outfielder, are the new players signed up by O'Connor since leaving the city, and he says that the club that is now under his control is about 50 per cent stronger than the nine that lined up against Chicago opening day at St. Louis U. grounds. A number of changes are being made in the St. Louis U. grounds, and the management expects even a larger crowd out next Friday than attended the inaugural tilt, as there are a number of new players on the team that have shown their merit, which the local fans are anxious to see.

Possible first name Jack Powell

The Salt Lake Tribune (Salt Lake City, Utah) • 05 May 1954, Wed • Page 25

i

Broke in as Pitcher in 1906

POWELL BROKE in as a pitcher with Kenosha, Wis., in 1906, but switched to the outfield in 1907. He played in the Colorado State League, the Texas, the old Western, Cotton States, Interstate and the Federal League in 1913.

"I hold something of a record, since just five months after I started to umpire, I was in the National League," he added.

"I lasted only three months that time, because of a run in

From an interview with umpire Jack Powell.

El Paso Herald (El Paso, Texas) • 28 Mar 1914, Sat • Page 16

cess for the club this season.
Powell, who comes from the Federal league, is an around man, is a hard sticker, a good base runner, and a good fielder, and will probably be used in the outfield.
Donnovan hails from the Union as-

Powell with Hurley (NM) in 1914 "from the Federal League"

THE 1911 HOUSTON BUFFALOES.

Player--	Residence.	Last team.	League.	Weight.	Height, feet-inches.	Age.	Position.	Bats.	Throws.	Years in prof'l ball.
Henry Nicholson.....	Houston, Texas	Houston	City	175	5	23	Pitcher	Right	Right	..
Charlie Rose.....	Marcelina, Mo.	Houston	Texas	169	5	25	Pitcher	Left	Left	..
Everett Hornsby.....	Fort Worth, Texas	Houston	Texas	170	5	10	Pitcher	Right	Right	5
Ack Barnett.....	Hillsboro, Texas	Greenville	Semi-pro.	165	5	25	Pitcher	Right	Right	1
Jack Eubank.....	Bellevue, Mich.	Houston	Texas	178	6	23	Pitcher	Right	Right	9
Cy Watson.....	Matador, Texas	Houston	Texas	180	5	29	Pitcher	Right	Right	8
Leonard Ham.....	Brinkley, Okla.	Oklahoma University	.....	196	5	9 1/2	Pitcher	Right	Right	..
Jack Edmundson.....	Waxahachie, Texas	Trinity University	.....	176	.....	23	Pitcher	Right	Right	..
Eddie Noyes.....	Troy, Kan.	Oklahoma	Texas	150	5	7	Catcher	Right	Right	8
Byron B. Gibbs.....	Keachie, La.	L. S. U.	.....	160	5	11 1/2	Catcher	Right	Right	..
Wm. S. Alexander.....	Fayetteville, Tenn.	San Antonio	Texas	160	5	5 1/2	Utility	Right	Right	16
Walter Salm.....	Corsicana, Texas	Houston	Texas	187	6	24	1st base	Right	Right	7
Zena Clayton.....	Corsicana, Texas	Trenton	Tri-State	180	5	11	2d base	Right	Right	7
Hunter Hill.....	Austin, Texas	Houston	Texas	175	5	10 1/2	Short	Right	Right	10
Blair Kerr.....	Corsicana, Texas	T. C. U.	.....	163	5	7 1/2	3d base	Right	Right	..
H. B. McCulley.....	Portland, Ore.	Houston	Texas	160	5	4	2d base, ss.	Right	Right	7
G. H. Davis.....	Bedalia, Mo.	Oklahoma	Texas	175	5	10	Outfield	Right	Right	8
Jack Powell.....	Denver, Col.	El Paso	Tournament	185	5	11 1/2	Outfield	Right	Right	..
George Whiteman.....	Peoria, Ill.	Mobile	Southern	180	5	7	Outfield	Right	Right	8
Joe Browne.....	St. Louis, Mo.	St. Louis	Trolley	185	6	22	Outfield	Right	Right	..
Will Kitchens.....	Orange, Texas	Fort Worth	Texas	140	5	9	Outfield	Left	Right	9
Theron Bell.....	Houston, Texas	Houston	Texas	170	5	9	Infield	Left	Right	8

of the lovers of the sport to raise the money to keep the club for the remainder of the season.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

late champion climbed with one jump among the top-pitchers by his remark-

of the Kansas City Southern, has been changed to March 11-29. This date is

Jack Powell – Played with Vicksburg in 1912
Came from Houston/Galveston/Austin in 1911

1911

Identified in Baseball-reference as William Powell (powell008wil). Has him playing for Mobile in 1915. Player in Mobile probably Watts Powell.

Powell played for Houston, Galveston, and Austin in the Texas League.

In the Houston Post on March 12, 1911 (pg. 19) is a table listing the players for the club.

Jack Powell, residence Denver CO, previous club El Paso, 185 lbs, 5' 11.5", 24 years old, right handed

Picture of the 1911 Buffalos, including Powell, in the Houston Post, April 12, 1911, pg. 8.

1912

Jack Powell played in Vicksburg, Mississippi

"Jack Powell is Here"

Former Buffalo and Senator goes to South Atlantic

Jack Powell, the slugging outfielder who opened the season with Houston last year, was exchanged to Galveston for Riggs, and later went to the Austin pennant winners, is in Houston en route to the South Atlantic, where he expects to play this year." Houston Post, March 5, 1912, pg. 3

Vicksburg Evening Post, March 19, 1912 (pg. 3): "C.J. Powell, outfielder, joined the Vicksburg ball squad last night. Powell played with the Texas league last year."

Powell injured his ankle in late May (Vicksburg Evening Post, May 22, 1912 (pg. 8).

Vicksburg Evening Post, July 31, 1912 (pg. 5): "Jack Powell, placed in the local baseball discard, has hiked to Chicago."

1914

Jack Powell played for the Hurley (NM) Concentrators in the Copper league in 1914.

"Powell, who comes from the Federal League, is an around man, is a hard sticker, a good base runner, and will probably be used in the outfield." El Paso Herald, March 28, 1914, pg. 16

"Jack Powell, who was secured from the Federal League, has been given his release by Riser. Jack was a good ball player when in condition." El Paso Herald, June 22, 1914, pg. 7

1921 path of Jack Powell:

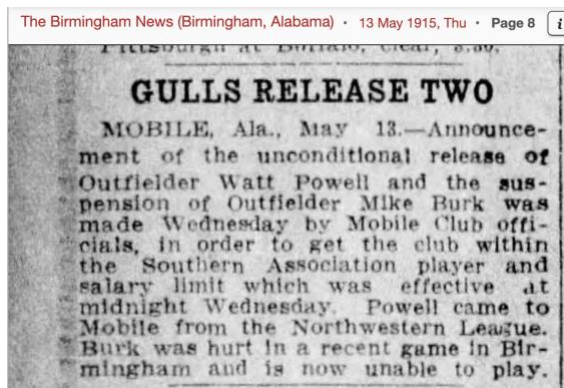
Jack Powell with Sioux Falls. BBRef says he's the same one with Vicksburg in 1912.

Casper (WY) Star-Tribune, April 14, 1921 (pg. 4): Jack Powell one of the outfielders vying for a spot on the club.

Sioux Falls (SD) Argus-Leader, July 1, 1921 (pg. 3): Jack Powell signed by Aberdeen. "Powell, new third sacker, comes from Casper, Wyo.."

Sioux Falls (SD) Argus-Leader, August 8, 1921 (pg. 3): Jack Powell joined the club from Aberdeen.

Last box score in Argus-Leader is in late September (September 19, 1921).



Watt Powell with Mobile in 1915, not Jack Powell

Sam Powell – Appeared in at least one boxscore with Bloomington

The Vinita Leader (Vinita, Oklahoma) • 03 Apr 1913, Thu • Page 3

in the crib last week and came near foundering.

Wm. Smith and wife left Saturday for Bloomington, Ill., where he plays this season with the I. I. I. league. Sam Powell went along for a try-out. Adair now has four players that are with league teams and two aerobats. The two latter will leave when the season opens for Kansas City where they are booked for the season. They are the Salt brothers, relatives of R. C. Hogue. J. M. Trollinger and family drove

The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Illinois) • 13 May 1913, Tue • Page 3

the dedication on next Wednesday.

Scott Lucas With Pekin.

—Scott Lucas, the Wesleyan star, who was given a trial by Bloomington, has joined Pekin and broke into an exhibition game Sunday, playing first base. He got one hit, a double. Powell, also with Bloomington, is playing center, and Clayton, Bales and Hickstein are among the slub-men, all secured from Bloomington.

With Pekin by May 13

The Daily Times (Davenport, Iowa) • 01 Oct 1913, Wed • Page 1

Baseball Briefs For Busy Bugs

Sam Powell, who started the season with the Bloomers and then went to Pekin, has decided to winter here and will keep in shape by toiling at the Chicago & Alton blacksmith shop during the off season.—Bloomington Bulletin.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat (St. Louis, Missouri) • 29 Apr 1913, Tue • Page 11

Bloomington Releases Powell.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE GLOBE-DEMOCRAT.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL., April 28.—Sam Powell, outfielder of Chicago, was released, and Catcher Peter Erlott suspended by Bloomington to-day. First Baseman Vinson will catch temporarily and Lucas Collegian will cover first.

Welsh Outpoints Al Ketchel.

Herald and Review (Decatur, Illinois) • 22 Jul 1913, Tue • Page 4

Ed Sullivan was released by Peoria Sunday and Desperate Desmond, late of Pekin, played third. He assisted in breaking up both games in the double bill with the Bloomers and may become a fixture. Sam Powell, who was released by Bloomington this spring, has caught on with Peoria and is expected to break in the game this afternoon for the Distillers in the center garden, replacing Walsh, who has slumped with the stick.

J. A. Corbett not only gave a one

Powell

Bats: Unknown • Throws: Unknown

[View Player Info](#) from the [B-R Bullpen](#)

Teams Played For Share & Export ▼ [Glossary](#)

Year	Age	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	Stint	From	To
1913	--	Pekin Celestials	Illinois-Missouri League	D				

powell007---

second on to a out.	Maxey having four hits and his pals three each. The score:	better was sat will be
	Decatur Blues.	John
	AB R H P A E	
10 A	Liston, 2b 5 2 3 2 2 1	Surrey
4 3 0	Maxey, ss 5 1 4 1 1 0	with a
3 0 0	Turpin, c 4 0 0 14 2 1	hands o
1 2 1	Thompson, 3b 4 0 0 0 1 0	be cam
2 1 0	Hauck, rf 3 2 1 0 0 0	of larg
1 0 0	Dressen, rf 1 0 0 0 0 0	matinee
0 0 0	Mintum, lf 4 0 0 1 0 0	that if
1 5 1	Cryer 1b 4 1 2 7 2 0	may do
6 2 0	Benford, cf 3 1 0 2 0 0	the exp
0 2 0	Wills p 4 1 1 0 3 0	
8 15 2		GUNB
0		
1—4	Pekin.	
0—5	AB R H P A E	
igan.	Ledger, ss 5 1 2 1 0 1	WASH
Reed,	Powell, cf 5 0 1 1 0 0	for any
erly,	Herbert, 1b 3 1 1 5 0 0	with th
bases	Abrams, c 3 0 0 16 2 0	Haitt, th
et, 2,	Andler, 2b 3 0 0 1 2 0	day from
t, 6,	Smith, rf 3 0 0 0 0 0	Prince.
Hart-	O'Hern, 3b 1 0 0 2 2 0	Hartman
Hart-	Halstead, lf—p 3 0 0 1 0 0	President
ie of	Fink, p 2 0 0 0 1 0	
l.	Clayton, p 2 0 0 0 0 0	
H. E.		
9 0	Innings 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
5 1	Decatur Blues 1 3 1 1 1 0 0 0 1—8	
; Sy-	Pekin L. M. L. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0—2	
	Two-base hits—Liston, Cryer, 2;	
	Wills. Home runs—Maxey. Bases	
	stolen—Maxey, 2; Hauck, Herbert,	
	O'Hern. Sacrifice hits—Turpin,	
	Thompson, Abraham, Herbert. Innings	
	pitched—Wills, 9; by Fink, 3; Halstead,	

three men up. From the first to the end of the game, only three more hits were made by Streater, and they came in separate innings and did no damage.

Powell hit the first ball pitched to him in the first for a home run, and Desmond followed suit in the second, but nobody was on the bases ahead of them and only two runs resulted. With the score 3 to 2 against them in the eighth, the Celestials pounded out a single and a double, which with two errors and a passed ball netted four runs. Diehl's hit with runners on second and third sent in the first two runs and practically won

“When fined to trying to to trans an unbea to either and nica

Sam Powell in box score with Pekin on May 5, 1913
 Homered for Pekin on May 21 against Streater

Umpires—L. Knapp, Harry Johnson. Umpire—James Sullivan.

Umpires—Steve Cusack, J. S. DeWitt.

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MANAGER SYFERT'S BLOOMINGTON SQUAD WITH WHICH DECATUR COMMIES OPEN SEASON TODAY

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L. Pet.
1 .887
2 .750
4 .667
6 .555
8 .417
5 .333
7 .500
7 .222

TS

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e. 3.



Top Row, Left to Right—Erioff, c; Hank Kuepper, p; Bales, p; Hickstein, p; Marks, p; Mack, cf; Hartford, ss; Bluejacket, p; Clayton, p.
Middle Row—Perry, 3b; Lucas, 1b; Pickett, p; Vinson, 1b; Ohlin, ss; Powell, rf; Manager Syfert.
Lower Row—Kohl, 2b; Jackson, cf; Paderal, ss; Kelly, 3b.

Sam Powell pictured with Bloomington