

Robert Higgins (Syracuse 1887-1888)

Public Ledger
Tue, Mar 16, 1886 -Page 4

Eureka Baseball Club.
This club has reorganized for the season and expects to take an active part in the field this summer. The following are the names of the members: Thad Potter, Horace Cummings, Cornelius Houston, Wm. Pryor, Robert Higgins, John McGowan, Lewis Smith, Bill Joyner, Bradford Washington, Squire Jackson, John Davis, Walter Pointer.

Memphis Avalanche
Tue, Apr 13, 1886 -Page 4

The Eureka and Eclipse, two strong colored nines, played a game Sunday afternoon at 'Cycle Park in the presence of 500 persons. The former won by the score of 11 to 10. Struck Out—Renfro 9, Higgins 8. Harden's catching was the feature of the game.

Memphis Avalanche
Tue, Aug 31, 1886 -Page 4

rifically by the Memphis boys.
The Eclipse were defeated Sunday by the Eureka—12 to 4. Renfro and Harter for Eclipse, Higgins and Cole for Eureka. Higgins and Cole are now considered the champion colored battery.

Camden Daily Telegram
Wed, May 25, 1887 -Page 1

The Stars have a new pitcher in Robert Higgins, a colored man from Memphis, Tenn. He is about twenty-six years old and is a "phenomenon." Manager Sneed, of the Memphis team says he will prove the strongest pitcher in the international league. Higgins has not played in southern clubs owing to the race prejudice.

Democrat and Chronicle
Wed, Jun 01, 1887 -Page 7

SYRACUSE, May 31.—Higgins, the new colored pitcher of the Stars, did great work to-day and was splendidly supported. Hayes also pitched a good game. Lynch hit the ball over the fence in the third inning, making the first square home run on the grounds this season. Score:

Chicago Tribune
Sun, Jun 12, 1887 -Page 14

ball, and you want to keep an eye on them."
"Dug" Crothers, pitcher of the Syracuse club, has been suspended for the season. He struck Manager Simmons because the latter insisted that he sit for a photograph in a group with Higgins, the colored pitcher. Crothers' home is St. Louis.

The Gazette
Fri, Dec 02, 1887 -Page 8

Walker, the colored catcher from Newark, has signed with Syracuse, and will pair with Higgins.

Memphis Avalanche
Thu, Aug 30, 1888 -Page 1

THE DIAMOND.
Local Baseball.
The Memphis Eureka Colored Baseball Club will cross bats with the Helena Club of Helena, Ark., at the park this afternoon. A good game is expected. Higgins of the Syracuse (N. Y.) Stars, and Bright will be the battery for the Eureka.

Memphis Avalanche
Mon, Jul 08, 1889 - Page 4

business.
The Eclipse and Eureka clubs will try conclusions at Citizens' Park this afternoon. The Eureka's have just returned from a successful Southern tour. The Eclipse have won eleven of the seventeen games recently played by them with white and colored clubs. Battery for Eclipse, Renfro and Hardin; for the Eureka's, Higgins, late of Syracuse, and Burns of New Orleans. Game called at 3:30 p. m.

The Memphis Commercial
Thu, Aug 06, 1891 - Page 5

The Score of a Bartlett Game—Ball for Next Saturday.
The Bartlett Base Ball Club and the "Cut Off Giants" played a somewhat wonderful game at Bartlett Tuesday. The Bartlett nine won by a score of 46 to 13.
Several hundred white spectators occupied reserved seats at the old Citizens' Park yesterday afternoon and witnessed a game between two crack colored clubs—the Eclipse and the Eureka's. The playing would have done credit to two National League teams. The score was 9 to 8, the Eclipse club winning. William Higgins, who pitched for the Syracuse, N. Y., club, and William Renfro, an equally well-known black twirler, were the opposing curve-makers. The clubs will play again today and tomorrow to white audiences.
On Saturday at the same park the Bluff City and Mississippi Valley nines will play.

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Robert Higgins

Tennessee > Memphis > 1887 > Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1887
Margaret, wid M., 104 S. Shelby
" Martin, wks Cole Mfg. Co
Higgins Patrick P., died Oct. 9, 1886
" Philip, c, lab, r 101 St. Paul
" Robert, c, barber r ns DuBose av, 2d e of Manassas
" Solomon, c, lab, r ss Greenlaw, 2d e of Front
Higgs James K., wks R. E. Akin

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Robert Higgins

Tennessee > Memphis > 1892 > Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1892
Higgins Peter c, driver Frank Cazassa, res rear 209 Linden.
Higgins Robert c, barber Horace Cummins, bds n s Spring r w of Walnut.
Higgins Robert clk Sheppard Bros bds 123 Georgia

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Robert Higgins

Tennessee > Memphis > 1899 > Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1899
Higgins Margaret E (wid Samuel S), res 12 Berry av.
Higgins N S, cond Mem St Ry Co.
Higgins Riley (c), lab, res 157 Gayoso.
Higgins Robert (c), barber Alfred Brown (c), bds 228 Pontotoc.
Higgins Robert W. clk. bds S Williams av

Hightower Samuel (c) Meriwether av 2 w
Hightower Zachariah son Trans Co, res 3
Higley Bessie Miss, 1
Higley Edith Miss, 1
Higley Elizabeth S (c)

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Robert Higgins

Tennessee > Memphis > 1904 > Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1904
Higgins Patrick, mach hand Mem Furn Mngf Co.
Higgins Pauline Miss, res 417 Front.
Higgins Robert (c), barber, 202 Beal, res r 204 Beal.
Higgins Theresa Miss, cook 97 Monroe.
Higgins Thomas, lab U S Dredge Fleet.
Higgins Tobias (c), barber, res r 204 Beal.
Higginson James W, car repr I C R R.

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Robert Higgins

Tennessee > Memphis > 1912 > Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1912
Higgins Percy* res r 643 Court av
Higgins Peter* rms 714½ S Wellington
Higgins Robt* barber 416 Beale av res 279 Turley
Higgins Robt clk res 499 E Georgia av
Higgins Theresa Miss cook Mrs A B Byrd rms 211 Monroe av

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U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Robert Higgins

Tennessee > Memphis > 1914 > Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1914
Loeb & Co bds 1009 S Cox
Higgins Arthur* res 20 E Illinois
Higgins Arthur* soft drinks 921 Wiloughby res 890 Willoughby
Higgins Chas W cashr Am Bag Co res 915 Stafford av
Higgins Eliza* bds Morris Higgins
Higgins Elizab Mrs died Oct 24 1913
Higgins Emma* bds 279 Turley
Higgins Emma O (wid Benj) res 331
704 Tennessee Trust Bldg.
Higgins Peter* bds 714½ S Wellington
Higgins Robt* barber 416 Beale av res 279 Turley
Higgins Robt W clk bds 417 E Georgia
Higgins Theresa Miss cook 211 Monroe
Higgins Thos carp U S Govt Fleet
Higgins Walter* res 1129 Texas
Higgins Wesley res 331 Princeton

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Robert Higgins

Tennessee > Memphis > 1918 > Memphis, Tennessee, City Directory, 1918
Higgins Neva J (wid Wm) bds 1022 Park
Higgins Robt* barber 416 Beale av
Higgins Robt W clk Frisco rms 693 S 5th

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County Shelby 31
Civil Dis.
Village Memphis
City Memphis
2. FULL NAME Robert Higgins
(a) Residence: 416 Beale av
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Robert "Bob" Higgins

BIRTH 1867
Tennessee, USA

DEATH 14 Aug 1930 (aged 62–63)
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, USA

BURIAL [Mount Carmel Cemetery](#)
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, USA [Add to Map](#)

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Robert "Bob" Higgins was an early professional black baseball player. He lived in Memphis, Tennessee and pitched for a black team, the Memphis Eureka. In 1887 and 1888 he pitched professionally for the Syracuse (N.Y.) Stars (International League/Association). He and Fleet Walker, the catcher, were the only black players on the team. Moses Fleetwood "Fleet" Walker is credited as the first professional black baseball player in the United States. Higgins returned to Memphis and worked as a barber on Beale Street until his death. In 1907 he married Emma Holmes who died in 1917. They had no known children. It appears Robert had 2 sons, Robert (Jr.), and Willie, from prior relationships. He died from tuberculosis at the Royal Circle Hospital on South 5th Street. His last residence was 416 Beale Street.

Bio by: [Tree Buff](#)

Family Members