

Ernie Burch

Position: Leftfielder

Bats: Left • **Throws:** Right

5-10, 190lb (178cm, 86kg)

Born: [September 9, 1856](#) in DeKalb County, [IL](#) 

Died: [October 12, 1892](#) (Aged 36-033d) in Guthrie, [OK](#)

Buried: Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK

Debut: August 15, 1884 (Age 27-341d, 978th in MLB history)

Last Game: July 10, 1887 (Age 30-304d)

Rookie Status: Exceeded rookie limits during 1884 season

Full Name: Ernest A. Burch

Register Batting Share & Export Glossary Hide Partial Rows

Year	Age	AgeDt	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	G	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	TB	GDP	HBP	SH	SF	IBB	
1883	26		Peoria		NWES	N/A																								
1884	27	0.5	CLV	NL	MLB	CLV	32	129	124	9	26	4	0	0	7					5	.24	.210	.240	.452	30					
1884	27	3.3	Peoria		NWES	N/A	59	250	51	73	13	2	0								.292	.360	.90							
1885	28		2 Teams	2 Lgs	N/A		81	333	333	76	112	19	9	0							.336	.447	149							
1885	28	2.9	Washington	EL	N/A		55	225	51	73	11	7	0								.324	.436	98							
1885	28	3.2	Kansas City	WSL	N/A		26	108	25	39	8	2	0								.361	.472	51							
1886	29	2.5	BRO	AA	MLB	BRO	113	496	456	78	119	22	6	2	72	16	39			.261	.321	.349	.669	159					1	
1887	30	3.6	BRO	AA	MLB	BRO	49	220	188	47	55	4	4	2	26	15	29	14		.293	.395	.388	.784	73					3	
1887	30	5.4	St. Paul		NWES	N/A	43	183	32	59	11	3	3		6						.322	.464	85							
1888	31	5.3	St. Louis	WSL	A		39	158	27	31	5	3	0		14						.196	.266	42							
1890	33	8.6	Peoria	CBL	N/A		73	282	71	85	11	9	5	18							.301	.457	129							
1891	34		Peoria		NWES	N/A																								
MLB (3 seasons)																														
					MLB		194	845	768	134	200	30	10	4	105	31				73	.28	.328	.341	.669	262					4
Minors (1 season)																														
					Minors		39	158	158	27	31	5	3	0	14						.196	.266	.42							
Other (6 seasons)																														
					Other		258	1048	1048	230	328	54	23	8	24									453						
All Levels (8 Seasons)																														
							489	2051	1924	391	560	89	36	12	105	69				73	.28			757					4	

https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/family-tree/person/tree/68936244/person/300028276210/facts?_phsrc=fLg207&_phstart=successSource

The Denver Base Ball Association will play any nine in the city at the fair grounds on Sunday next, at 2:30 o'clock, weather permitting, for a ball, purse or for practice. The following nine will represent the association: Pitcher, Otero; catcher, Hayes; first base, McGrady; second base, James Davis; third base, Wilmot; short-stop, Williams; left field, Ryan; center field, Birch; right field, Dreyfocs. The change battery will be Bushong as pitcher, and M. J. Madden catcher.

Rocky Mountain News May 24, 1882

To-Morrow's Ball Game.

Weather permitting a match game of base ball will be played at the fair grounds to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, between the first nine of the Denver association and the Clippers, one of the strongest amateur teams in the city. The following players will represent the association: John S. Hayes, E. E. **Bushong**, Charles McGrady, George Clark, Charles Wilmot, Al Dreyfoos, A. W. Davis, Ernest Birch and M. J. Madden. Game will be called promptly on time.

Rocky Mountain News June 10, 1882 (E E Bushong is brother of Bushing from Worcester)

BEATEN BY BLUES.

Denver's Base Ball Club Disastrously Defeated.

The Leadville Nine Enjoy a Walk Over.

A Full Description of the Game by Innings.

The first game between the Denver Browns and Leadville Blues, for the championship pennant of Colorado, was played at the new base ball grounds, near the Exposition building, yesterday afternoon. The new grounds belong to Brasher Bros., and are fitted up with reference to beauty and convenience, but unfortunately the field is slightly too small, a defect which will be remedied. They were highly praised by everybody in attendance at yesterday's game. Many improvements will doubtless be added yet. There were about 350 people in attendance upon the game yesterday.

The game was called at 3:10 and Mr. W. R. Perry selected as umpire. The visitors won the toss and elected to take the field, while

THE HOME CLUB WENT TO THE BAT.

The first inning resulted in a whitewash for the Brown Stockings, but when the Leadvilles took up the willow they showed their superiority over the home men and pounded Bushong unmercifully. The fielding of the visitors, with the exception of Price, the right fielder, was almost perfect, while that of the Denvers was bad through-

not running back to his base on a foul. Hull, of the Leadville's, went out from Dreyfoos to McGrady, and Newell in a similar manner. Blake went to first on balls. Knowdell struck to Bushong but he threw over McGrady's head, and Foutz hit to centre for two bases sending Knowdell to third. Webster's hit brought Knowdell in. Phelan hit a safe single bagger, bringing Foutz in. Kessler struck to right field for a base, and Webster and Phelan scored. Price sent a fly to Birch who again signalized himself by catching it, leaving Kessler on second.

Ninth Inning—Darrah went to first on balls and in trying to steal second was thrown out by Knowdell. Birch went out on a short fly to Blake. McGrady made a safe single bagger and Dillon took first on balls and Davis went out on foul to Knowdell.

The visitors waived playing the last half of the ninth inning and the game was called. It lasted two hours and thirty-five minutes.

The following was

THE SCORE:

	A.	B.	R.	B.H.	T.B.	P.O.	A.	E.	
DENVERS.									
Wilnot, 3 b.....	4	2	2	3	2	3	0	0	
Dreyfoos, s. f.....	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	
Hayes, c.....	4	0	2	4	4	2	1	0	
Darrah, r. f.....	5	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	
Birch, c. f.....	4	1	2	2	3	0	2	0	
McGrady, 1 b.....	4	1	2	2	8	0	1	0	
Dillon, 2 b.....	4	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	
Davis, 1. f.....	4	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	
Bushong, p.....	4	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	
Total.....	37	5	8	11	27	14	16	0	
LEADVILLES.									
Newell, 1. f.....	6	4	4	4	2	0	1	0	
Blake, 1 b.....	7	6	3	5	8	1	0	0	
Knowdell, c.....	7	4	1	1	6	3	1	0	
Foutz, p.....	7	4	4	4	0	2	0	0	
Webster, s. f.....	7	4	5	8	1	2	2	0	
Phelan, 2 b.....	6	2	3	3	8	1	0	0	
Kessler, 3 b.....	6	3	6	7	4	4	0	0	
Price, r. f.....	6	2	2	3	2	0	2	0	
Hull, c. f.....	6	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	
Total.....	58	30	29	37	27	18	6	0	
Innings.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Blues.....	7	2	0	0	6	4	6	5	—30
Browns.....	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	C—5

FREE FOLLY.

BASE BALL.

**The Third Game Between the Leadville
and Denver Clubs to Be Played
To-Day.**

This afternoon at 4 o'clock a match game will be played between the Leadville Blues and the Denver Browns, on the grounds of the latter opposite the Exposition building, when an exciting contest is anticipated. The following are the players and positions of each nine:

BLUES.	POSITIONS.	BROWNS.
Tumalty.....	center field.....	Burch
Blake.....	first base.....	McGrady
Knodell.....	right field.....	Ryan
Foutz.....	left field.....	Davis
Orth.....	short-stop.....	Dreyfoos
Phelan.....	second base.....	Clark
Kessler.....	third base.....	Wilmot
Price.....	pitcher.....	Crawford
Hull.....	catcher.....	Hayes

This will be a close game, and the Browns, having every confidence in Crawford, their new pitcher, will make strenuous exertions to pull a chestnut out of the Leadville Blues' fire.

It will be observed that the Leadville club has changed their pitcher and catcher for to-day's game. In Sunday's game Foutz acted as pitcher and Knodell as catcher. In to-day's game they play in the field. The Denver club plays in the same positions as in Sunday's game. Why the Leadville club make the change has not been given out. The Browns look upon it as a good omen, and are pretty confident of success.

Denver Republican August 1, 1882: 1

catching flies in their respective fields. Burch of the Reds, the center fielder, made the catch of the game, a high and long knock of Hudson's flying well over his head, and after running back, making a jump, and taking the ball in one hand. The pitching of Powell, of the Chicago Unions, for the Reds, was very effective, and his change from a swift to a slow ball was a source of annoyance to the Stars, who batted out on such balls many times. The score was:

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Stars.....	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	*- 4
Reds.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1- 3

Earned runs—Stars 0; Reds 0.
Two-base hits—Stars 1; Reds 2.
First base on balls—Stars 0; Reds 2.
Struck out—Stars 10; Reds 7.
Left on bases—Stars 6; Reds 7.
Double play—Walch to Portner.
Passed balls—Cavanaugh 1; Schwartz 3.
Wild pitches—Powell 2.
Umpire—Wade.
Time—1 hour, 45 minutes.

Quad City Times October 11, 1883: 1

TIPS.

C. E. Smith, the Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; catcher engaged for the Peoria Reds, arrived yesterday.

The Peoria club arrived at noon, and will play three games here.

Cavanaugh, of the Rock Island nine, has a sore hand, and did not play today.

Following is the position the clubs are playing in today: Peoria—Pinkney, s s; Burch, l f; McSorley, 3b; Fulmer, c; Powell, 2b; Hughes, 1b; Clark, c f; Kent, p; Long, c f. Rock Islands—Larkin 3b; Goggin, r f; Walsh, s s; Forrest, l f; Hudson, p; Hagan, 1b; Nugent, 2b; McHenry, c f; Sage, c.

Rock Island Argus April 24 1884

THE CLEVELAND TEAM.

Special Telegram to The Inter Ocean.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Aug. 9.—The Cleveland Club managers are much disposed to make a fight for the three players who yesterday deserted the team. A plan of suit against the Cincinnati Union is under serious advisement. If the suit is brought an injunction will first be obtained to prevent the Cleveland men from playing in Cincinnati. The Cleavelands have signed Burch, left fielder of the disbanded Quincys and a star fielder of the Northwestern League. The prospects for the team's going through the season are now very good.

Inter Ocean August 10, 1884

Ernest A. Burch, of the Cleveland league team, arrived from the East yesterday and will probably winter in this city. He has several offers for next year, having created an excellent impression at the bat and in the field by his season's work with Peoria and Cleveland.

Rocky Mountain News November 17, 1884: 6

"Kansas City's Pets: The Men Who Represent
Missouri In The Western League."
Kansas City Times, 19 April 1885, p. 9



Ernest A. Burch.

THE MASHER IN LEFT GARDEN.

Ernest Burch first came into prominence in base ball circles as the left fielder of the Leadville Blues when it was composed of Kent, Phelan, Kemler and others and defeated everything in Colorado. In 1883-4 he played with the Peorias and when they disbanded went to the Cleveland league club.

Kansas City Times April 19, 1885: 9

BURCH WILL PLAY WITH THE BROOKLYNS.

Burch, who played with the Nationals of Washington last year, has been assigned to the Brooklyn Club.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle January 29, 1886

again tied—4 to 4—the visitors having played a fine up hill game, Harkins not only pitching with effect, but being finely supported in the field, Torry doing service at left field in place of Burch, while Swartwood especially distinguished himself as right field. In the seventh inning the Brooklynns rallied at the bat and got in three runs, and, though the home team tried hard to recover their lost lead,

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle July 13, 1887

Burch is not likely to play with the Brooklyn again. It is said that President Byrne told him out West that he didn't care whether he ever saw him again or not.

The Standard Union (Brooklyn) July 21, 1887

Burch was released by the Brooklyn club yesterday.

The New York Tribune July 24, 1887

A New Right Fielder.

Manager Barnes has made a hit in securing Burch, released from the Brooklyn a few days ago, for the St. Paul team, and he is expected to arrive here to-day and play in the game against La Crosse. Burch made a name for himself two seasons ago with the Nationals, of Washington, when they became the champions of the Eastern league. Subsequently he was secured by the Brooklyn and has played with that team up to a recent date. The new man is a splendid batter, first-class

St. Paul Globe August 4, 1887

Burch, the right fielder of the St. Paul nine, has been released by Manager Barnes.

Saint Paul Globe October 8, 1887

Recently the reason for the release of Burch from the Brooklyn has leaked out. According to Mr. Byrne, he sent every dollar he was paid to Dakota Territory, where it was invested in land, and always while in the field his whole thoughts were upon his property in the far-off country. He grew worse as the season advanced, and his mind was never upon the game. He was, therefore, practically useless.

The Times (Philadelphia) Jan 29, 1888

Burch Signs With St. Louis.
 Tom Loftus, who is to manage the St. Louis Western League Association team next year, writes from Dubuque to the **SPORTING NEWS** as follows: "I have signed B. A. Burch of Brooklyn for the St. Louis Western Association team. He has a batting average of .400 in forty-eight games. As a batter I think him equal to anybody. All he needs is to get among hustlers. Comiskey is here lying on the fat of the land--snow. His friends gave him a banquet last week. The boys here are going crazy over the new suit he brought from Frisco. It was made by Mr. Ah Thero, of Cincinnati, who claims relationship to Ar Lie Latham. Will be down soon."

Sporting News Feb 18, 1888

Burch of last year's Brooklyn Club will cover left field for Tom Loftus' St. Louis Whites. Loftus is getting a winning team together.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch February 17, 1888



B. A. BURCH,
 Crack Fielder of St. Louis Whites.

Somewhere I saw a blurb about him going back to his ranch for the rest of the season.

No word has as yet been received from Burch. He is up in Dakota somewhere "punching" cattle.

Dolan and Cautz, of the defunct St. Louis Whites, have been signed by the Browns. Nyce has gone to Toledo.

Omaha Daily Bee July 12, 1888

Ernie Burch was reported dead in November, 1888...

It is said that Burch, who one time played with the Metropolitans and Brooklyn Club, died recently of typhoid malaria at Dennison. Kansas City has secured "Chippie" McGarr

Post-Dispatch Nov 1, 1888

... but it was a false alarm.

The Burch who died recently in Texas is not the ex-Brooklyn outfielder, as was published all over the country. The Brooklyn boy is on a ranch in the Territories. The deceased was not as good a ball-player and Burch was only an assumed name.

Post-Dispatch Dec 4, 1888

Sudden Death.

Died, Wednesday, October 12, 1892, of typhoid fever, Ernest A. Burch, aged 36 years. Funeral Friday, Oct. 14, from residence in southwest Guthrie, at 2:30 p. m.

The deceased will be remembered as the fine base ball player of last summer. He was a broom-maker on east Oklahoma avenue of late. He had more than local reputation as a base ball player, having played with many of the national teams.

Oklahoma State Capital Oct 15, 1892

Baseball-Reference lists his death as October 12, 1892 in Guthrie, OK.

David Nemec

Major League Baseball Profiles, 1871-1900, Volume 1

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Burch, Earnest A. / "Ernie"

B	T	HGT	WGT	G	AB	H	R	2B
L	?	5'10"	190	194	768	200	134	30
3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	BA	SA	OBP
10	4	105	73	24	31	.260	.341	.328

B. 9/9/1856 Dekalb County, IL **D.** 10/12/1892

TEAMS: 84CleN 86-87BroA

DEBUT: 8/15/1884 at Providence; played LF and went 0-for-4 in a 3-2 loss to Providence's Charley Radbourn

FINALE: 7/10/1887 at Louisville; played LF and went 0-for-4 in a 14-7 loss to Louisville's Elton Chamberlin

Ernie Burch joined independent Omaha in 1883 and moved soon afterward to Peoria of the Northwestern League. He reputedly collected 5 doubles in his first 5 at-bats with his new team and remained with Peoria in 1884 until Cleveland NL acquired him. In 1885 **Burch** spent most of the season with Washington of the Eastern League and was reportedly ticketed for Denver in 1886 before Brooklyn won an angry squabble with the New

York Mets for the rights to him. **Burch** was Brooklyn's left fielder in 1886, and he held the job until July 1887 when Ed Greer replaced him even though he was among the team's top hitters at the time. Brooklyn owner Charlie Byrne later explained that **Burch** had been released because he had invested all his money in farmland in the Dakota Territory and his mind was on his property rather than on **baseball**. Other team observers took a different view, accusing **Burch** of being "utterly without ambition, energy or pride in his work . . . a good **player** who went to seed through sheer laziness. It was a question half of the time if he was not asleep standing in the field." The unforgiving critique was all the more peculiar in that **Burch** was not a drinker.

After playing for the Western Association St. Louis Whites in 1888 and hitting .196 in 36 games, **Burch** did indeed quit the game to work his ranch. Apparently the enterprise failed, however, for he was back in **baseball** with Peoria of the Illinois-Iowa League by 1890. **Burch** played briefly again with Peoria in 1891 but by the end of the season was living in Red Rock, OK, without an engagement. The following October he died at 36 in Guthrie, OK. (DN/DB)

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Name: Earnst Burch	Name: Earnest A Burch
Age: 4	Age in 1870: 14
Birth Year: abt 1856	Birth Year: abt 1856
Gender: Male	Birthplace: Illinois
Birth Place: Illinois	Dwelling Number: 184
Home in 1860: Paw Paw, DeKalb, Illinois	Home in 1870: Paw Paw, Dekalb, Illinois
Post Office: Paw Paw	Race: White
Dwelling Number: 3136	Gender: Male
Family Number: 50	Post Office: East Paw Paw
Attended School: Yes	Attended School: Y
Household Members:	Household Members:
Name	Name
Age	Age
Alfred W Burch	Alfred W Burch
39	48
Lydia Burch	Missia M Burch
34	16
Ellen Burch	Andrew B Burch
16	23
Andrew Burch	Earnest A Burch
13	14
Marcia Burch	Ida M Burch
6	12
Earnst Burch	Benjamin Warren
4	32
Ida Burch	Ella Warren
2	30
James Chapman	John Warren
15	13
Emma Mead	Henry Warren
19	7
	Martin Warren
	2
	Elizabeth Mulligan
	17
1860 Census	1870 Census

Name: Ernest Birch
Age: 23
Birth Date: Abt 1857
Birthplace: Illinois
Home in 1880: San Antonio, Conejos, Colorado, USA
Dwelling Number: 65
Race: White
Gender: Male
Marital status: Single
Father's Birthplace: New York
Mother's Birthplace: Ohio
Occupation: Broom Maker
Neighbors: View others on page
Household Members:
Name
Age
Ernest Birch
23

1880 Census