

## Jack Crooks

Jack Crooks played with St. Paul in the Northwestern League in 1887. He signed with the Whites in early November, 1887. During spring training, he started at second base through the first few weeks of training games. During the break between the game against the Prickley Ash and the game against the Kansas City club, he suffered a sprain and missed the rest of the pre-season games. Parson Nicholson moved to second base to replace him. When he returned from his injury for the season opener, he was playing third base. Just over a week or so later, Alcott was released, as Crooks and Nicholson became the regular starters at third and second, respectively.

He was sold to the Omaha club on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the day of the Whites' final game, and first appeared with Omaha on June 23. After Crooks was sold, the Whites had only eight men left on their roster. The game on June 21 was cancelled due to rain, and on June 22, the Whites planned to insert Jim Devlin into right field as the ninth man. Des Moines objected, and the Whites forfeited the game. On June 23, the Whites again tried to play Devlin, and again forfeited. The team was disbanded that evening by Chris Von der Ahe.

### **CHARLES CROOKS**

**Is 24 years of age and comes from St. Paul, of which city Col. Wm. Crooks, his father, is a well known and prominent citizen. Crooks will be one of the star catchers of the Western Association, for last year he caught the very speedy pitcher, Sowders, on the St. Paul Club, the Northwestern League, and did also excellent work at the bat and as a base runner. Besides his baseball attributes Crooks is one of the most scientific sparrers in the Northwest and his friends there have offered to back him for money in glove fights against many well known professional fighters around St. Paul and Minneapolis. Few of the pugs who have seen Crooks spar, however, were willing to meet him in a ring.**

Jack Crooks, who played second base last year for St. Paul, has signed with the St. Louis club for next season. On Tuesday evening his many admirers in St. Paul gave him a banquet, and during its progress presented him with an elegant diamond stud.

The Saint Paul Globe, November 10, 1887

Pittsburg and Chicago at Indianapolis.

**Crooks' Leg Injured.**

ST. LOUIS, April 19.—Jack Crooks, the well-known second baseman, who was with the St. Paul club last year, but now with the Whites of this city, has received a severe sprain to his leg, which will not allow him to appear in the exhibition games of the club. He will appear, however in the regular Western association games.

**Ward Signed.**

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St. Paul Globe?

CROOKS was released to Omaha and left to join his new team last night.

Globe Democrat June 21, 1888

### **Crooks Goes.**

John Crooks, who has been covering third base for the Whites, was yesterday sold to Omaha, and Nicholson will go either to Wheeling or Minneapolis. The Whites will play their schedule for several weeks yet. Sam Morton, who is trying to sell the Chicago Maroons, has made every effort to prevent clubs from buying the Whites' franchise, stating that the franchise could be bought for nothing in a short time. Davenport is ready to jump in and take the place of St. Louis, but rather than let the franchise go for nothing, Von der Ahe proposes to play his team all summer.

St. Louis Republic June 21, 1888

Star Tribune (Minneapolis) June 21, 1888 Crooks sold to Omaha.

# AN EASY VICTORY.

## The Prohibitionists Easily Defeat the St. Louis Whites.

JACK CROOKS SOLD TO OMAHA.

Second Day's Racing at Cedar  
Rapids—The Lucky  
Horses.

PITTSBURGH WHITEWASHES CHICAGO.

Detroit Wins from Indianapolis  
and Washington from  
Philadelphia.

### WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

Des Moines, 8; St. Louis, 7.

[SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ST. LOUIS, Mo., June 20.—The Whites returned this morning from their disastrous trip through the Northwest and in the afternoon met the Des Moines club at Sportsman's park. Joe Murphy, the reporter, pitched under the alias of Farquhar, and would have won the game had he been properly supported. Kenyon attempted to play second base but made a miserable failure, muffing three flies in succession. In the first and second innings the visitors made eight runs by Halliday, Macullar, Shafer and Vandyke and errors by Crooks and Kenyon. The Whites made four in the fourth on doubles by Nicholson and Arundel and singles of Dolan and Kenyon. The Des Moines team was never able to score after the second inning. Hogan, the umpire, gave the game to the visitors in the ninth inning by a decision that almost resulted in a riot. He gave the Whites the worst of it in every decision. Crooks has been sold to Omaha and Nicholson will probably go to Minneapolis. Score:

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**Omaha, 6; Kansas City, 4.**

[SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 23.—Lovell's pitching was a trifle too much for the home team, they securing but three hits off his speedy delivery. Following is the score:

Kansas City—						[REDACTED]—					
R	B	O	A	E		R	B	O	A	E	
0	0	9	1	1	Cooney, rf.....	2	2	1	0	1	
0	0	0	4	3	Annis, cf.. ..	1	0	1	0	1	
0	0	0	0	0	Shannon, ss..	1	1	0	2	0	
1	0	2	1	0	Crooks, 2b.....	0	2	3	4	1	
2	2	3	2	0	Burns, lf.....	1	0	2	0	0	
1	1	1	0	0	Nagle, 1b.....	0	0	11	0	1	
0	0	0	0	4	Miller, 3b.. ..	1	1	4	4	0	
0	0	6	0	0	Lovett, p.....	0	0	2	2	0	
0	0	2	9	0	Wilson, c.....	0	0	2	0	2	
Total.. .....						Total .....					
4	3	24	17	8		6	6	27	12	6	
Kansas City						0 2 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 4					

Star Tribune June 24, 1888



**Second Baseman Charles Crooks.**

Charles Crooks, the expert second baseman of the Columbus club, has been a professional ball player for the past three years. He was born Nov. 9, 1866, in St. Paul, Minn. His first baseball experience was gained while a student at college in Racine, Wis. His first professional engagement was in 1886 with the Minneapolis team. At the end of the season he ranked first in the official averages as third baseman. In 1887 he covered second base for the St. Paul club and ranked sixth in the batting averages of the Northwestern league. During the latter part of the season of 1888 he played second base for the Omaha club of the Western association. He staid with the Omahas during the season of 1889, playing in ninety-seven games, and being credited with sixteen home runs, twelve three base hits and fifteen



**CHARLES CROOKS.**



### BASE BALL.

One telegram states that Fred Pfeffer has signed to captain and play second base for Louisville at a salary of \$6,000 a year, while another claims that he has gone there to open a saloon. The former is more likely to be true. It has been stated in telegrams sent from St. Louis to outside newspapers that President Von der Ahe claimed to have signed Pfeffer. This statement is not correct. While the St. Louis President wanted Pfeffer, he has never claimed to have signed him, but, on the other hand, has always denied having secured him. He says President Hart of Chicago offered to trade him Pfeffer for Stricker, but afterwards refused to make the deal, demanding Glasscock in exchange for the second baseman. This trade the St. Louis magnate refused to make. Jack Crooks has now been signed to cover second base for the Browns and an effort will be made to exchange Stricker for a pitcher, as St. Louis is badly in need of twirlers.

YALE WITHDRAWS.

Post-Dispatch Jan 18, 1892

### Base Ball Briefs.

Jack Crooks will winter in St. Louis with his wife and sister.

Omaha Daily Bee Oct 23, 1892

Washington on his knee.

Jack Crooks has married an Alton, Ill., girl, and moved into a brown stone front in St. Louis for the winter months. In the meantime Jack will keep books in the Third National bank over there. Yes he will.

Captain Charlie Comiskey, says the Cin-

Omaha Daily Bee Oct 30, 1892

evening at 7:45 o'clock.

Manager Barnes has signed for the Minneapolis baseball team Jack Crooks, the well-known heavy-hitting second baseman, and Frazer, a Chicago crack player.

Eckhard Umbach, colporteur of the

Star Tribune April 10, 1894

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## Contracts and Releases

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Secretary announces the following baseball contracts for 1894:

With Louisville—W. M. Earle,

With Boston—C. A. Nichols.

With New York—Amos Rusie  
James Stafford.

Released—By Boston, Henry C  
St. Louis, Charles J. Crooks.  
M. Earle.

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The Inter Ocean 18 April 1894



After the disbandment he guarded second base for the Omaha club of the same organization. He continued with the Omaha in 1889, when he played 97 championship games, and was credited with 16 home runs, 12 triple baggers and 15 double baggers. Before that season closed his release was bought by the Columbus club and he remained with that club until the consolidation of the American Association and National League, when Von der Ahe's Browns obtained a contract from him and he remained with that club until he came to Minneapolis.

Star Tribune 31 Dec 1894

will be mistaken. —Exchange.

“Jack Crooks is a cute cuss, and the man who separates him from his money is a ‘beaut,’” remarked Perry Werden. “Jack and his wife are regular attendants at a North St. Louis church. Recently a pastor announced, just before the plate was passed, that the collection of the day would be devoted to the purchase of coal. Before

Star Tribune Feb 18, 1896

## CROOKS TURNED DOWN.

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**Released by Von der Ahe, He Is Back  
Once More in the Western League.**

Jack Crooks, released by Chris Von der Ahe, has returned to the burg of his baseball infancy. When Chris handed Jack a ticket of leave in St. Louis on Saturday Jack flashed his calcium light visage on Earl Wagner and asked for another chance in Washington. Earl declined and Jack wired his old manager, Tom Loftus, who immediately signed the man with the man-in-the-moon visage.

Jack will play up to the gait of the Western League, and always was a favorite in Columbus. Crooks has been in and out of the League and Association many a time and oft. He first sprang into prominence as the second baseman of the St. Louis Whites of the Western Association, in '87, when Chris Von der Ahe had the Whites as a side show to the Comiskey Browns. Jake Beckley was the first baseman of the white hosiery troupe, and Joe Herr played the short field. Beckley and Crooks are the only veterans left over from Chris' crack Whites of '87.

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OF PAULINA, ARE TOWARDS AT THE MORGAN...  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Crooks, of St.  
Louis, arrived at the Garretson last night.

Sioux City Journal 19 Mar 1899

## “JACK” CROOKS HERE

FORMER PRIDE OF LOWER TOWN  
BALL FIELDS PAYS ST.  
PAUL A VISIT

### NEW AMERICAN A WINNER

That is the Prediction of Mr. Crooks,  
Cigar Salesman, Based on a Long  
Experience on the Professional  
Diamond—The National League  
Has Been Playing the Hog Too  
Long.

“Well, Charley Crooks, as I live,” ex-  
claimed Judge Egan, cordially, as he ex-  
tended his hand to a stalwart young fellow  
on East Fourth street yesterday, the in-  
dividual thus greeted being none other

St. Paul Globe 24 Sep 1899

Manager Shannon was elated over today's victory and is confident that if he can get his infield straightened out the Bisons will crawl up the percentage ladder. Andrews is out of the game with sore eyes which were made worse by his permitting a cure-all barber to drop some medicine in his lamps that was too strong. Shannon received the welcome news today that Jack Crooks will leave St. Louis tonight to join the Buffalos and will probably make his debut at second base in tomorrow's game.

Buffalo Courier Jun 8, 1900

large attendance.

Jack Crooks, who was engaged to serve as Captain of the Alton Blues has signed with the Buffalo, N. Y., team and will not play with the Altons. It is not known who will take his place with the Blues.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lock are on

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Alton Evening Telegraph June 9, 1900

Crooks played for the Alton club in 1899 and 1900

## THINGS ON THE SIDE

JACK CROOKS HAS BEEN PAID OFF—  
BIERBAUER GOES TO MILWAUKEE  
—TO KID SPEER WAS PRESENTED  
A DIAMOND STUD.

Special to The Buffalo Express.

Milwaukee, Wis., June 17.—Manager Shannon paid Jack Crooks his salary after a ~~two day~~ ~~stay~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~team~~ ~~left~~ ~~be-~~ ~~hind~~. Crooks will probably take a turn at the races in Chicago, as he may make book there.

Buffalo Morning Express Jun 18, 1900

Jack Crooks has not been up to the Western League standard, and the news that he would sever his connection with the Buffalo team, by request, did not surprise very many people. Crooks has been batting at about only .100, and this is far from what he ought to do. Atherton on second will be a tower of strength and an invaluable aid to Jay Andrews, who will certainly play the game right if the man close to him has any life, and Atherton certainly has life.

Buffalo Courier June 18, 1900



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It was organized, and is reputed to be one of the luckiest and surest heavy hitters on the team at critical times, will be superceded tomorrow by Frank Pears at first base. At second a blank is left as it is not known who will hold down the second bag. Jack Crooks, who has played with the Bluss before, and has left the Buffalo team, may be induced to play with the Blues and cover his old stronghold where he has made such a good record for himself. The line-up for the game will be:

Altons.		St. Charles.
Stein,	c	Winklemeyer

Alton Evening Telegraph June 23, 1900

Second Baseman Jack Crooks has been released by the Buffalo club, as he was only signed to fill in by Manager Shannon. Atherton has filled the vacancy.

Star Tribune Jun 24, 1900

Jack Crooks, recently released by Buffalo, is back in St. Louis getting his cigar samples ready for a trip among the vendors of the week.

Star Tribune July 15, 1900

It is expected that second base will be covered by another old time local star, none other than "Jack" Crooks, in his time the king of all second basemen, and with the bat scarcely second to Werden. Crooks, who has been selling cigars of late years, has kept in training to some extent, and played fast second at Alton, Ill., within two years.

Saint Paul Globe Dec 16, 1900 – Referring to the St. Paul club

## WERDEN AND CROOKS LEAVE ST. PAUL TEAM

A shake-up took place last night in the St. Paul baseball team. Perry Werden, formerly first baseman for Minneapolis, but this year playing in the same capacity for the Saints, is to go to Des Moines in company with Jack Crooks, who has played second base in the team this season.

In exchange the Saints get Lippert, who has some pitching qualities and is also an outfielder, and O'Connell, for some time first baseman for Des Moines.

The local shake-up will put Dillard, who has played center field, on first base, the plan being to have Lippert take Dillard's place in the field. O'Connell has not yet been assigned and will play on the bench.

Star Tribune June 15, 1901

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JACK CROOKS, according to press reports, refuses diamond with Percival Werden. The story is that while away on a trip Percy made mean remarks about Jack, and Jack rushed into a Des Moines uniform, but Crooks refuses to join the tail enders. All this is very sad news.

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Star Tribune June 19, 1901

# S Jack Crooks Is a Miller

Jack Crooks is to be a miller again after chasing other fortunes for seven years. The last time he wore a miller uniform was in 1894 and he says that he plays just as good a game as he did then. In his long baseball career Crooks' work has been marked by an aggressiveness and a bulldog tenacity that has made him one of the most popular players produced by the national game. He plays as hard in the ninth inning as in the first and works with as much purpose in defeat as in victory.

In the games in which the veteran has been seen in Minneapolis he played the old time form. His quarrel with Perry Werden hampered his work in St. Paul, however, and the row resulted in both being traded to Des Moines.

Crooks will play first base and will captain the team. Jack will doubtless be a clever first baseman. It is not as fast a position as second base where Jack formerly held forth, nor so difficult a position to fill. Not many hits come that way and a first base guardian is not expected to cover as much ground as the other basemen and it is dangerous for him to get far from the sack at any time. The need of a capable captain has long been felt. President Beall thinks that he has the man he wanted in Jack Crooks. The veteran certainly knows the game, is aggressive and full of enthusiasm. The team is trotting along at a good gait. Catcher Donahue has strengthened very materially by his general headwork and his base running. His hitting is up to the .300 mark. It is believed that Rohe if he ever becomes a miller will prove an equally valuable man.

Four of the regular team are batting over .300—Brashear, Belden, Congalton and Cockman in the order named; the popular second baseman having an average of .312. McCredie is sixth on the list with 282, McConnell is .265 and the others trail.

Minneapolis Journal June 22, 1901

# "JACK" CROOKS TO BE CAPTAIN OF MINNEAPOLIS BASEBALL

Jack Crooks has been located. Yesterday the management of the Minneapolis team announced that Crooks had been signed to play with the Millers. Crooks will cover first base regularly and captain the team.

Crooks started in the season with St. Paul. After the slump of the Giants, Manager Ryan started looking for new timber

and Crooks and Des Moines, which he had played for at the time, had been in the city. Crooks had joined the team and will get at Des Moines to play on the same team. He remained in St. Paul when arrangements for management were made.

# RELEASE CROOKS

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**VETERAN PLAYER IS DROPPED BY  
MINNEAPOLIS MANAGEMENT.**

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**Second Baseman Was Not a Success  
at the First Sack—Tannehill to  
Take His Place.**

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Jack Crooks, for the past five days first baseman on the Minneapolis ball team, was unconditionally released last night by President Beall.

Crooks is a second baseman, and was out of his element at the beginning sack. He worked hard while in charge of the Miller team, but his play at first fell short of what the management knew Tannehill could do, and as the time for reducing the club has arrived, Crooks was selected as one of the men to go.

Crooks was secured for the Miller team when the management thought another infielder was needed. President Beall believed he was to lose Third Baseman Rohe, and not desiring to play a catcher on the first sack, he secured Crooks. As Rohe is to stay with the Millers and Tannehill is a fast man at the beginning sack, Crooks was given his notice.

Crooks had an off day yesterday, and his errors were in the main responsible for that awful first inning. His misplays were



Star Tribune June 27, 1901

## *Tebeau May Play in Benefit Game for Jack Crooks*

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The committee in charge of arrangements for the grand benefit baseball game to be tendered Jack Crooks, famous second baseman of the old St. Louis Browns, reports that the advance sale of tickets indicates the game will be well attended, and that the stricken athlete will receive a sum of money far in excess of any sum ever collected at a benefit of this character in St. Louis.

The committee is comprised of Oliver Patrick Tebeau, former baseball star and manager of the first ball star and manager of the first Cardinal team to represent St. Louis in the National League; Jack Powell, former star moundman for the St. Louis Browns; Count Henry Hoffman, and Prince Harry Fisher. The game will be played at Robison Field, Wednesday afternoon, June 23.

Efforts are being made by friends and admirers of Tebeau, Powell and Bobby Wallace to have the three veterans appear in the line-up for one of the contesting teams. Tebeau has not been seen in a baseball uniform since the day he resigned in favor of John McGraw and quit baseball. Grandstand tickets for the benefit game are selling at 50 cents each.

St. Louis Star and Times June 7, 1915

# Crooks, Veteran Player of 1890 Browns, Is Dead

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Death of Old Second Baseman  
Follows Years of Suffering  
From Elephantiasis.

Charles J. Crooks, known as "Jack" among the thousands of old time fans who saw him play as a member of the Browns of 1889-1890, died yesterday at the St. Louis Insane Asylum. Crooks for several years had suffered from an affliction known as elephantiasis and weighed over 300 pounds.

For several years prior to his death he had been unable to work as a salesman, in which capacity he had been engaged since quitting the ball field.

## **Widow Survives Him.**

Crooks was a second baseman and made his first big bid for fame with the St. Louis Whites in the Western League. The Whites played at the Browns park when the Browns were on the road. In 1889 he joined the Browns.

The Whites, under the management of the veteran Tom Loftus, developed three other stars, Crooks, Harry Sti-

# Charles J Crooks

BIRTH	unknown
DEATH	2 Feb 1918
BURIAL	<a href="#">Valhalla Cemetery</a> Bel-Nor, St. Louis County, Missouri, USA
PLOT	Adult/2/618
MEMORIAL ID	186151926 · <a href="#">View Source</a>

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FLOWERS 

**Gravesite Details** 52yrs 2mos 24dys



**CROOKS**—On Saturday, Feb. 2, 1918, at 7 p. m., Charles Jack Croks, aged 51 years, dearly beloved husband of Blanch Crooks (nee Dimmett).

Funeral from William F. Paschedag's chapel, 2825 North Grand avenue, Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 2 p. m. Motor. Please omit flowers.

St. Paul (Minn.) papers please copy.

Post-Dispatch Feb 4, 1918