

Frank Nicholas
Sioux City 1888

Frank Nicholas

Positions: Catcher and Rightfielder
Bats: Unknown • **Throws:** Unknown
Full Name: Frank F. Nicholas

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Year	Age	AgeDif	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	G	PA
1884	--		York	KEYA	N/A			
1887			2 Teams	SOUL	N/A		83	34
1887	--		Nashville	SOUL	N/A			
1887	--		Charleston	SOUL	N/A			
1888	--		Sioux City	WA	A		26	
1888	--		Charleston	SOUL	N/A		35	
1889	--		Evansville	CISL	N/A		78	
1890			2 Teams	ATLA	N/A		42	15
1890	--		Washington	ATLA	N/A		37	
1890	--		Wilmington	ATLA	N/A		5	
1891	--		Manchester	NENL	N/A			
1893	--		York	PASL	N/A		12	
Minors (1 season)					Minors		26	9
Other (7 seasons)					Other		250	81
All Levels (7 Seasons)							276	90

Franklin Frederick Nicholas

BIRTH

14 Nov 1861
Pennsylvania, USA

DEATH

4 Jul 1930 (aged 68)
Springettsbury Township, York County, Pennsylvania, USA

BURIAL

Prospect Hill Cemetery
York, York County, Pennsylvania, USA

MEMORIAL ID

101707111 · [View Source](#)

Base Ball.							
On Friday afternoon last a game of base ball was played on the Association grounds here between the Westminster First Nine and the Excelsior Club of Baltimore. The following is the score :							
WESTMINSTER.							
	A	B	R	BH	P	O	A
Miller, l. f.....	5	3	2	1	0	1	1
Zecker, s. s.....	3	1	0	3	4	2	
Switzer, p.....	5	4	3	0	11	0	
Nicholas, c. f.....	5	1	1	11	1	1	
Clabaugh, 2 b.....	5	0	0	2	0	4	
McFadden, c. f.....	5	0	1	1	0	0	
Boyle, 1 b.....	5	0	0	8	1	1	
Bankert, 3 b.....	2	0	0	1	3	1	
Driscoll, r. f.....	4	1	1	0	0	0	
Total.....	30	13	8	37	20	10	
EXCELSIORS.							
	A	B	R	BH	P	O	A
Rinn, s. s.....	5	2	1	1	0	3	
Dorsey, r. f.....	5	2	2	0	0	0	

Democratic Advocate (Westminster MD) June 7, 1884

WESTMINSTER BATTING AND FIELDING RECORD.

The following is the batting and fielding average of Westminster Base Ball Club, not including the Littlestown game on last Friday, the highest possible average being 1,000:

BATTING RECORD.		FIELDING RECORD.	
Miller.....	393	Houseman.....	988
Houseman.....	273	Nicholas.....	932
Nicholas.....	235	Driscoll.....	918
Gist.....	231	Miller.....	862
Driscoll.....	214	Bankard.....	823
Bankard.....	182	Anders.....	785
Awalt.....	173	Clabaugh.....	714
Anders.....	143	Awalt*.....	
Clabaugh.....	116	Gist*.....	

*No chances offered.

Democratic Advocate (Westminster MD) August 2, 1884

WESTMINSTER.						
	A B	R	B H	P O	A	E
Miller, s. s.....	4	2	2	2	3	0
Nicholas, c.....	4	0	1	7	2	2
Houseman, p.....	4	0	0	1	6	0
Clabaugh, 2 b.....	4	0	0	0	0	3
Anders, c f.....	4	1	1	1	1	0
Bankert, 3 b.....	3	0	1	4	2	0
Dorsey, l. f.....	4	0	0	1	0	0
Morelock, r. f.....	4	0	0	1	0	0
Driscoll, 1 b.....	3	1	1	10	0	1
Total.....	34	4	6	27	14	6
LITTLESTOWN						
	A B	R	B H	P O	A	E
Zecker, s. s.....	5	0	2	0	1	0
Switzer, 3 b.....	5	1	2	0	4	1
Greer, c. f.....	5	2	2	1	0	0
Cantz, c.....	5	1	0	7	3	0
Byers, 2 b.....	4	0	1	2	0	1
Morris, p.....	4	1	1	0	10	0
Speakman, l. f.....	4	0	2	1	0	0
Mitchel, 1 b.....	3	1	0	16	0	0
Bost, r. f.....	4	0	0	0	0	0
Total.....	39	6	10	27	18	2
SCORE BY INNINGS.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6

Democratic Advocate (Westminster MD) August 16, 1884

The Westminster baseball club has been organized for the season with the following nine: William Switzer, pitcher; Frank F. Nicholas, catcher; H. M. Clabaugh, William R. Anders, C. Robt. Miller, E. D. Greer, John Driscoll, Granville Bankard, Harvey Zepp. The nine consists of the same members as last season with the exception of Switzer and Zepp. The club will possibly go into the Maryland League.

Catoctin Clarion (Mechanicstown MD) May 14, 1885

Frank F. Nicholas, one of the catchers on the Westminster Club, has signed with the Lawrence (Mass.) Club, of the Eastern New England League. This club won the pennant last season. Nicholas had a batting average of .343 last season, and a fielding record of .983. He was in demand, having offers from Oswego and Binghamton, N. Y., from the Metropolitans and other clubs. Driscoll, one of the Westminster pitchers, goes to Chattanooga, Tenn., next season.

Democratic Advocate (Westminster MD) January 16, 1886

Manager Bradley has just signed F. F. Nicholas, a catcher, who played with the Westminster, Md., team last season. He is also after Burke, the well-known short stop, of New Orleans.

Nashville Banner February 5, 1887



CATCHER FRANK F. NICHOLAS.

The Nashville Tennessean February 7, 1887

The Game This Afternoon.			
The following is the batting order for this afternoon:			
MEMPHIS.		CHARLESTON.	
Doyle.....	3 b	Glenn.....	1 f
Andrews.....	1 b	Hines.....	2 b
D. McKeough.....	c	Powell.....	1 b
McAleer.....	1 f	Carl.....	c f
Crotty.....	s s	Corcoran.....	3 b
Black.....	c f	Nicholas.....	r f
Phelan.....	2 b	Childs.....	c
G. McKeough.....	p	Hungler.....	p
Smith.....	r f	Crostitie.....	s s

Memphis Avalanche August 20, 1887

Charleston has signed Joseph Brown, R. G. Childs, F. E. Carl, Ed. Glenn, F. F. Nicholas and George Strief. This looks like the 'Quake City intends to be a winner.

Nashville Banner December 7, 1887

field. G. J. Parke, manager, Frank Nicholas, "Reddy," formerly of this city, has signed with the Birmingham, Ala., club.

The Democratic Advocate (Westminster. Maryland) April 14, 1888

• Nicholas, the newly signed catcher from York, Pa., and who had previously supported Seibel in Charleston, S. C., was behind the plate and was viewed with critical curiosity. There was nothing in his playing yesterday to call startling or brilliant. Perhaps he was not in form for work. His throwing to bases was unreliable and his catching was not a display of coolness or confidence. He made it laborious. At the bat he failed to find the ball until he had retired twice on strikes. That was his record yesterday. He may improve.

Sioux City Journal, July 31, 1888

It is understood that Phelan and Nicholas are to be released. Brosnan, the second baseman of Minneapolis, has signed with Sioux City. Weber and Moolic, a battery from New Orleans, have also signed and Moolic has reported for duty.

Sioux City Journal, August 16, 1888

Nicholas has been released and the new manager is expected to trim the unnecessary expenses off.

Sioux City Journal, August 29, 1888

BASE BALL NOTES.

● The meeting of the board of directors with Manager Powell last evening was to talk over the necessary changes to finish the season with credit. Nicholas will be paid off to-day and a couple of others will secure walking papers in a day or two. Another new player is booked and will report in a few days. There is going to be straight work under Powell or else somebody will feel the weight of fines. Rank exhibitions of playing from men who are known to be reliable when they wish to be will be promptly met by punishment. Patrons of the game are not going to be hippodromed if the managers can prevent it, and they think they can.

Sioux City Journal, August 30, 1888

ported by a contest in that direction by their opponents. The batting was lively at times, and Sioux City again led at the stick, but the same misfortune of getting the hits scattered, while the visitors hit with greater effect, pursued the game through to the end. Powell, Sneed and Brosnan played a handsome game with the stick and in the field, and Nicholas—who, by the way, is not to be released after consideration—surprised the natives by base throwing and batting that was elegant. He had the satisfaction of tossing Mr. Hawes, the great sprinter, out at second with the assistance of Brosnan. ● Genins still keeps up his bungling work in center, and the question is coming to the front. "What

Sioux City Journal, August 31, 1888

WESTERN ASSOCIATION.
SIOUX CITY, 4; ST. PAUL, 9.
Successful bunching of hits and too many costly errors is the reason of yesterday's result at Evans park. Webber has a sore arm, to be sure, and Sioux City seems to be very unfortunate in having the sore-armed pitchers of the league. Both Nicholas and Schildknecht are nursing disjointed fingers, and Brosnan has a split hand; was yesterday retired to the field and exchanged places with Genins. He proved to be much weaker in general field work, but had better success with thrown balls from the plate than Brosnan. There are very few better second-base players than Brosnan, and for the time he is nursing his lameness the club will be weak at the point he has guarded so efficiently. The JOURNAL reporter heard of no

Sioux City Journal, September 30, 1888

THESE WERE RETAINED.
The Directors Retain Powell, Brosnan, Seibel and Nicholas for Next Season.

Sioux City Journal, October 2, 1888

WESTERN ASSOCIATION CLUBS GETTING
READY.

CHICAGO, Oct. 4.—A list of players reserved by the Western association, under clause 2, article 10, of the national agreement, was made public to-day as follows:

Milwaukee—W. C. Crossley, W. Fuller, E. L. Mills, Wm. Hawes, John J. McCabe, Joseph Walsh, Joseph Strauss, G. Winkelman, Clark Griffith, Wm. Shenkel, R. S. Lowe, John McAleer, Leach Maskrey.

Chicago—E. J. Hengle, D. E. Dugdale, Wm. Hanrahan, Thos. Turner, C. H. Hoover, C. W. Sprague, M. Keogan, F. C. Rheims, Wm. Nulton.

Des Moines—Harry Sage, Wm. Traffley, D. E. Stearns, J. F. Macullar, W. J. VanDyke, W. C. Alvord, F. C. Smith, J. W. Holliday, E. L. Cushman, Geo. Shafer, W. F. Hutchison, J. R. Phelan.

St. Paul—W. Earle, Calvin Broughton, Thos. J. Morrissey, J. Pickett, Chas. T. Reilly, Jno. Sowders, Jas. Duryea, P. L. Murphy, Wm. Tuckerman, Jno. E. Carroll.

Kansas City—J. R. Johnson, J. B. Gunson, P. B. Swartzel, C. L. Reynolds, James Conway, Ed. Cartwright, Joe Ardner, Jno. McCarty, Wm. L. Hassamer, M. Bradley, C. A. Nichols, H. C. Long.

Omaha—Thos. Lovett, James J. Cooney, J. A. Miller, W. H. Clarke, Thos. Nagle, Jno. Crooks, Edward Kennedy, Wm. Annis, Jas. McGarr, Edward Mayer, Geo. A. Wilson.

Sioux City—J. E. Powell, Henry Seibel, Tim Brosnan, F. F. Nicholas.

Signed and Released.

Secretary Morton reports the following players signed and released:

Signed with Milwaukee, A. P. Alberts, George McVey; Omaha, C. H. Willis, J. J. Cooney, T. E. Nagle, John Messitt, Charles Crooks, W. H. Clark, George Prosser; Des Moines, P. J. O'Connell, Leach, Maskrey; Boston, William Sowders.

Released—By Omaha, John Campana; by Sioux City, F. F. Nicholas; by Des Moines, E. L. Cushman.

St. Paul Globe March 24, 1889

Interstate League.

At Evansville—

Evansville.....	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1—5
Burlington.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0—1

Hits—Evansville, 10; Burlington, 7. Errors—Evansville, 2; Burlington, 5. Batteries—Dundon, Nicholas, Latouche and Calhoun; Stevens and Weickbrecker.

Indianapolis Journal June 30, 1889

BASE-BALL CONTRACTS ANNOUNCED.—

Manager Barnie will start on a Northern trip today in search of new material for his Atlantic Association nine, and during his absence will sign Ray, of last year's club. President Zack Phelps, of the American Association, has announced the following contracts for 1890: With Syracuse, William M. McCauley, Clarence J. Childs, Barney McLaughlin, Joseph V. Battin, J. T. Keene, Toby A. Lyons; with Toledo, Frank Schieback; with Indianapolis, M. J. Scanlan; with Cleveland, Vincent Dailey, T. L. Stockwell, W. D. Smalley; with Chicago, Cliff Carroll, W. B. Blair, W. Inks; with Washington, Michael Jordan, W. C. Phillips, B. Hill, F. F. Nicholas, H. L. Mace; with Baltimore, Daniel Quinn, W. G. Henry; with New Haven, R. H. Pettit, C. J. Doyle; with Jersey City, Joseph McGuicken, Joseph F. Dowd, Thomas

Baltimore Sun February 17, 1890

FORMER BASEBALL STAR IS CLAIMED BY DEATH

FRANKLIN F. NICHOLAS, WHO
PLAYED IN MANY LEAGUES,
EXPIRES SUDDENLY

RECORD AS HE WROTE IT

Franklin F. Nicholas, former star baseball catcher of Southern, Western, Atlantic, New England, State and other leagues, died suddenly at 4:20 o'clock yesterday morning at his home, 31 North Oxford street, East York. Death was caused by paralysis. Dr. L. U. Zech, county coroner, issued the death certificate. In addition to his widow, Anna K. Nicholas, the deceased, who was 68 years old, leaves a son, Frank Nicholas, and a daughter, Mrs. Ethan A. Deckman, both of this city, and seven grandchildren.

Frank F. Nicholas was famous as a catcher and fielder in the eighties and the early nineties. During that period he played on many league and independent teams. As a youth he was a woodworker. Born in York, he played on amateur teams here, and his ability as a catcher soon received recognition. He was engaged as a catcher on the first York team of the first professional baseball league that Pennsylvania ever had. The games then were played on the old fair ground on East King street.

Several years ago Nicholas wrote a very concise record of his baseball career. This was given to his son, who was told to have it published after the father's death. This is the story as written by the once famous professional ball player.

Played in Many Leagues

"In the years of 1884 and 1885 I caught all the games for the Westminster, Md., independent club, champion of Maryland, defeating such clubs as William Barnes' Baltimore club with Bob Emsley and Sam Trott as the batteries. In 1885 we defeated the Washington, D. C., National league club at Washington and also defeated the York, Pa., club, then champion of the Middle States league.

In 1886 I caught 87 consecutive games for the Manchester, N. H., club, an independent organization. We defeated all the strongest clubs of New England. In 1887 I caught 102 games for the Nashville, Tenn., club, champions of the Southern league.

"George W. Bradley was the manager of the Nashville club. My batting average was .391 and fielding average .984. In 1888 I caught nearly all the games for the Charleston, S. C., Southern league club, until it

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORMER BASEBALL STAR IS CLAIMED BY DEATH

(Continued From Last Page)

disbanded July 4, 1888. I then finished with Sioux City, Iowa, in the Western league. The Southern and Western leagues turned out in those years such famous players as Al Maul, Kid Nicholas, Jim McLeer, Shorty Fuller, Harman Long, Jim McGarr, and a score of others. At the end of the season of 1888 I was reserved by Sioux City for 1889 and was paid handsomely for giving them that privilege. I caught all the games in 1888 and I ranked among the leading catchers of the Western league.

"Owing to a dispute in salary I did not go to Sioux City for the 1889 season. But in that season I caught nearly all the games for Evansville, Ind., club of the Interstate league. That was one of the speediest leagues in my experience as a professional baseball player. Walter Goldsby was the manager.

"Harry Smith, manager of the Springfield, Ill., club of the Interstate league, wanted to bet any amount of money that I could throw the bases with any catcher in the country. Buck Ewing, of New York, was the best in those days. Smith barred no one. Not even Buck Ewing.

"In 1890 I caught and played right field for Ted Sullivan's Washington, D. C., team of the Atlantic league.

"In 1891 I caught all the games for the Manchester, N. H., club, of the New England league. We landed in second place in the league that season.

Managed York Team
"In 1892 I caught all the games and managed successfully the York Independent club. In 1893 I caught all the games for William Steven's York club of the State league. The club failed, for lack of patronage. The same year I umpired some of the State league games. The nomination was offered to me by the State league secretary, but being fully acquainted with the position I declined with thanks. In the same year William Sharsig wanted me to help Charlie Snyder to do the catching for the York club of the State league. York was one of the strongest clubs of the league. I refused Sharsig's offer."

"FRANK F. NICHOLAS."
Frank F. Nicholas was a man of genial nature and upright character. A clean liver and hard worker in and out of baseball, managers pointed him out as a model. He did not believe in loafing between seasons like so many base ball players of his time and since, but always engaged in business or employment of some kind in the winter.

Wherever he played ball Nicholas was the idol and ideal of the small boy. Trade in catchers' gloves for kiddies always took on a spurt where he played behind the bat.

He was one of the coolest headed, unostentatious players who ever held the catcher's position. He never became excited and refused to waste time in argument when disputes broke out in the course of a game. Silent, sure of himself and never rattled, in action behind the bat his precision was such that he resembled a catching machine.

Early in his professional career Frank Nicholas married a York woman, Miss Annie Martin. He made a devoted husband and father. He bought a home in York to which he retired at the end of his baseball career when he took up landscape gardening. The retired ball player was esteemed as a good citizen.

Family Members

Parents



George Nicholas
1827–1894



Catharine *Beck* Nicholas
1824–1916

Siblings



Henry A Nicholas
1852–1922



Sarah C Atchley
1855–1940



Eliza P *Nicholas* Weidman
1857–1912

Spouse



Anna K. *Martin* Nicholas
1862–1944 (m. 1883)

Children



Franklin Frederick Henry Nicholas
1895–1964