

J.O. Sterling  
 With Minneapolis in spring training

https://www.baseball-reference.com/register/player.fcgi?id=sterli004---

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**BASEBALL REFERENCE** Enter Person, Team

Players Teams Seasons Leaders MLB Scores <sup>1</sup> MLB Playoffs

**Sterling**  
 Bats: Unknown • Throws: Unknown

**Register Batting** Share & more ▼ Glossary

Year	Age	AgeDif	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		
<u>1888</u>	--		Jackson	TRIS	N/A																										
All Levels (1 Season)																															

A 7890 (underlined) value in the totals indicates career mark is incomplete.

**Teams Played For** Share & more ▼ Glossary

Year	Age	Tm	Lg	Lev	Aff	Stint	From	To
<u>1888</u>	--	Jackson Jaxons	Tri-State League	N/A				

*Stirling, see also Starling and Sterling.*  
 Stirling Annie, music teacher, bds 223 19th.  
 Stirling James O, bottler Geo Norris & Co, bds 125 Larned w.  
 Stirling John, sec Detroit Association of Charities 46 Moffat Bldg, h 73 Ledyard.  
 Stirling John R, lawyer 46 Moffat Bldg, h 485 5th.  
 Stirling Mary (wid James), h 125 Larned w.  
 Stirling Ruby, wks H S Robinson & Burtenshaw, bds 37 Bagg.  
 Stirling Wm J, lab S F Hodge, bds 125 Larned w.  
 Stirling Wm J, domestic 185 Park

1880 Detroit City Directory

*Stirling, see also Sterling.*  
 Stirling Henry C, barndr, h 106 Beech.  
 Stirling James, bottler Norris & Stapleton, bds 125 Larned w.  
 Stirling Jesse, carp, h 107 19th.  
 Stirling John, sec Belle Isle Park Com, h 73 Ledyard.  
 Stirling John R, trav agt Alexander Gordon, h 35 Buena Vista.  
 Stirling Mary (wid James), h 125 Larned west.  
 Stirling Wm J, engineer, bds 125 Larned west.  
 Stirling Wm J (wid Edward) h 107 19th

1884 Detroit City Directory

Stirling, *see also Sterling and Stierling.*  
Stirling Agnes (wid John), h 73 Ledyard.  
Stirling James O, mngr Norris & Staple-  
ton, bds 137 Cass.  
**\*Stirling John R,** Sec Board of Park  
Commissioners 5 and 7 Market Bldg, h  
32 Elm.  
Stirling Mary (wid James), h 137 Cass.  
Stirling Wm, engr, bds 137 Cass.  
Stitzer Augustus, fireman, bds 337 Frank-  
lin.

1886 Detroit City Directory

Manager Gooding, of the Minneap-  
olis base ball team, has just signed  
three new men. C. J. Parsons, pitcher  
of the Rochester, N. N., team last  
year, is the first of the trio. He has  
also signed J. O. Sterling of Detroit,  
a very promising amateur twirler.  
The third man is W. F. Jordan, who  
caught for Duluth toward the close of  
last season. He is said to be much  
such a player as Earle, of the same  
team. Jordan is a fine all around  
player, as well as a brilliant catcher.

Oshkosh Northwestern Jan 20, 1888

Manager Gooding now has four good  
pitchers, three first class catchers and a crack  
short stop. The newly acquired pitcher is C.  
J. Parsons, who played in the International  
league last season with the Rochester club,  
and was considered one of the best pitchers in  
the league. He has also signed J. O.  
Sterling, a young giant of Detroit, who  
stands six feet and weighs 190 pounds, and  
who promises to develop into some-  
thing phenomenal as a pitcher. W.  
F. Jordan has been signed as catcher. He  
played with the Duluth club a short time last  
season and is noted as being very fine. He  
is a heavy batter, a good runner and excel-  
lent at backstops and throwing to bases.  
Chub Collins, of last year's Hamilton club, in  
the National league, is also liable to be  
awarded to Minneapolis, and if so, every-  
thing will be complete. With so well  
equipped a club there is no reason why, if  
only they won't get discouraged as they did  
a few times last summer, they cannot win  
the pennant.

Minneapolis Star Tribune Jan 23, 1888



**Pitcher Stirling.**

James O. Stirling will, with the Minneapolis team, make his debut as a professional player, and from the reports of this Detroit boy there is no fear of his "going through." He is a veritable giant in stature and as handsome as he is big. He is 24 years of age, six feet in height and tips the beam at 180 pounds. Stirling has pitched for the Cass club of Detroit, which has held the amateur championship of Michigan for four years, all with his help, and it is hoped that his career as a professional may be as full of flowers as was his career as an amateur.

Minneapolis Star Tribune March 17, 1888



STERLING, OF DETROIT, is another amateur, which, of course, is against him. He has played with the Detroit team in practice games, and was strongly recommended to Manager Gooding by Manager Watkins, of that team. He is a very young man, but a trained athlete, and weighs 190 pounds, with six feet of height. He has the build of a player, and is said to be able to slug the ball. He will be given a fair trial, and may justify all advance praises.

St. Paul Globe March 18, 1888

Sterling pitched in a benefit game for John Shaw on May 11, 1888, per St. Paul Globe.

J. O. Sterling, late of Minneapolis, who has signed to pitch for Jackson, is a-Detroiter.

Detroit Free Press May 27, 1888

Mr. James Stirling has moved from No. 10 Howard street to No. 117 Lafayette avenue.

Detroit Free Press November 1, 1891

**Stirling, see also Sterling and Stierling.**  
 " Agnes (wid John), bds 73 Ledyard.  
 " Miss Annie, dressmkr, bds 171 Ash.  
 " James, driver, h 71 Pine.  
 " James O, clk Detroit & Cleveland  
 Steam Nav Co, bds 131 Cass.

**Stirling John R, sec Commissioners of  
 Parks and Boulevards, 5 Market  
 Bldg, h 73 Ledyard. Tel h 4323.**  
 " Mary (wid James), h 131 Cass.  
 " Wm J. engineer, bds 131 Cass.

Detroit City Directory 1889

[View details](#)

[Detroit, Michigan, Directory, 1890](#)  
CITY & AREA DIRECTORIES

NAME: James O Stirling

RESIDENCE YEAR: 1890, 1891

RESIDENCE PLACE: Detroit, Michigan, USA

BUSINESS NAME: str City of Cleveland

BUSINESS ADDRESS: boards 16 Howard

OCCUPATION: 2d Clk

**Stirling, see also Sterling and Stierling.**  
 " Agnes (wid John), bds 73 Ledyard.  
 " Miss Annie, dressmkr, bds 171 Ash.  
 " Christopher, detective, h 359 Wilkins.  
 " James, milk, 973 Grand River av, h same.  
 " James O, clk, bds 16 Howard.

1891 Detroit City Directory

NAME: James O Stirling

RESIDENCE YEAR: 1893

STREET ADDRESS: 117 Lafayette Av

RESIDENCE PLACE: Detroit, Michigan, USA

OCCUPATION: Clerk

PUBLICATION TITLE: Detroit, Michigan, City Directory,  
 1893

**DIED.**

**STIRLING—Thursday, July 21, MARY, widow of the  
 late James STIRLING. Notice of funeral hereafter.**

Detroit Free Press July 22, 1892 – Mother

James Stirling died at his residence, 117 Lafayette avenue, Thursday, and will be buried this afternoon. He was a member of the old Cass Base Ball Club when it was the great amateur team of Detroit, and later went into professional base ball. He played with the Minneapolis Club, in the Northwestern League, for several seasons, as well as with clubs in other cities. He was but little over 30 years of age.

Detroit Free Press August 26, 1893



Photo added by [The Lady in Black](#)

## James O. Stirling

BIRTH	4 Feb 1862
DEATH	24 Aug 1893 (aged 31)
BURIAL	<u>Woodmere Cemetery</u> Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, USA
PLOT	Section D
MEMORIAL ID	112059321 · <a href="#">View Source</a>




This John Sterling is not the Sterling who played for the Athletics in 1890., although he did play for Lancaster in 1890 and lived in Gloucester, where the Athletics played the day Sterling pitched.

# John Sterling

**Positions:** Starting Pitcher, Second Baseman and Third Baseman

**Bats:** Unknown • **Throws:** Unknown

6-1, 172lb (185cm, 78kg)

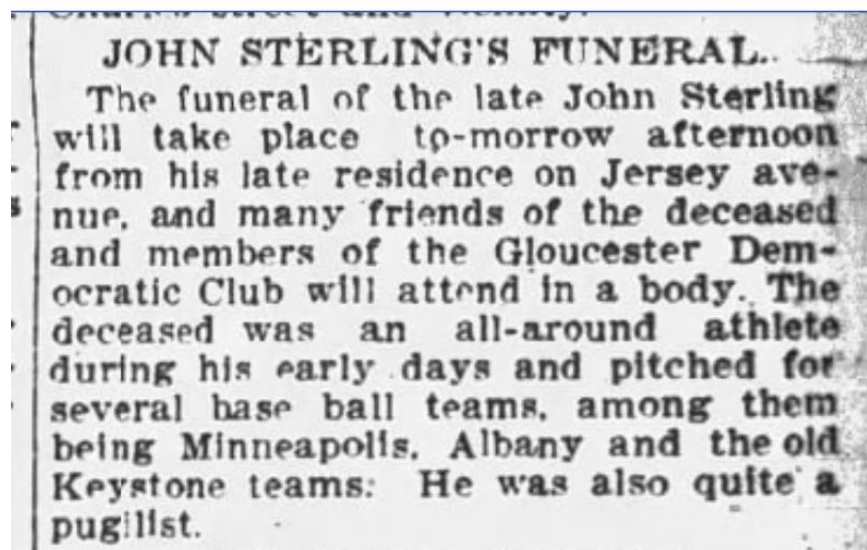
**Born:** 1865 in PA 

**Died:** November 10, 1908 in Gloucester City, NJ

**Buried:** Union Cemetery, Gloucester City, NJ

**Full Name:** John A. Sterling

The Morning Post  
12 Nov 1908, Thu · Page 3



**The men signed by Charles E. Mason, manager of the Philadelphia Giants, the team that will represent the Quaker city in the Middle States League, are all over six feet in height. They will present a fine appearance on the ball field. Their names and heights are as follows:**

**Robert Gibson, short stop, Washington, Pa., 6 feet 3 inches; William Goodchild, first base, Philadelphia, 6 feet 6 inches; Fred A. Klobedanz, catcher, Waterbury, Conn., 6 feet 4 inches; Edwin Delp, second base, Lonsdale, Pa., 6 feet 2 inches; John Robinson, catcher, Philadelphia, 6 feet 8 inches; George Rooney, third base, Winchester, Mass., 6 feet 4 inches; H. Sterling, centre field and pitcher, Philadelphia, 6 feet 1 inch; Charles Vogel, right field and pitcher, Cleveland, 6 feet 2 inches; M. A. Jones, left field, Philadelphia, 6 feet 1 inch.**



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**OUR OWN "ACTIVES."**

**Manager Goodhart Is Strengthening the Team—The First Game on Saturday.**

Manager Goodhart, of the "Actives," is now in conference with Sterling, of Philadelphia, the pitcher who pitched against the Athletics last season, the latter getting only five hits on him. It is likely he will be signed here. The Athletics want the Actives to play them at Gloucester next Sunday, and the only difference between the clubs is a question of guarantee. The Actives will probably play on Sunday at Gloucester—it looks that way now; they will play the Richmond (Virginia) team on the 18th or 19th. They will play Lexington on the 24th, Renova on the 25th and Williamsport on the 26th.

Cross, Gill, De Silva and Goodhart, of Reading, and Davis, of Chester, will report here on Thursday.

The Actives will open the season in this city at McGrann's Park, on Saturday, when they will play the B. O. P. team, of Harrisburg.

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Lancaster Examiner April 9, 1890

the strength of the Lancaster club.  
Manager Goodhart has released Harry De Silva and will play Mishler, of Lancaster, on second base. It is probable that Sterling and Conway, of Philadelphia, will be signed this week.  
The management will admit ladies to

Lancaster New Era April 14, 1890

... Sterling, a pitcher of last year's Philadelphia Giants, and this year with Mason's professionals, has been signed by Manager Goodhart.  
... of last year's Harlan and Johnson

Lancaster Daily Intelligencer April 17, 1890

from the first to the last inning. Herndon was supported throughout admirably, while Sterling, although pitching a fine game, lacked support. The work of Rogers, Herndon and Owens was fine. Mishler, of the visitors, sustained a double fracture of the nose at the bat in the fifth inning. The score:

**First Game.**

LEBANON.					LANCASTER						
R.	IB.	P.O.	A.	R.	R.	IB.	P.O.	A.	R.		
Moran, cf.	1	0	1	0	1	Cross, ss.	1	3	3	3	2
Graham, 2b.	0	0	2	1	0	Goodhart, cf.	1	5	1	0	
Fodgers, 1b.	1	3	8	0	0	Gill, lf.	1	5	0	0	
M'Gaffry, c.	1	7	2	0	0	Klein, cf.	0	1	1	0	1
Heiser, ss.	2	1	1	4	0	Mishler, 1b.	0	0	2	0	0
Kelly, lf.	0	1	1	0	1	Kline, 2b.	0	1	3	0	1
Graulich, rf.	0	1	0	0	0	O'Brien, rf.	0	0	0	0	1
Owens, 2b.	0	1	4	0	0	Fox, 3b.	0	0	3	1	1
Herndon, p.	0	0	3	2	0	Sterling, p.	0	1	0	3	0
						Davis, lb.	0	0	5	0	0
Total....	5	8	27	9	2	Total....	2	8	27	8	0

**INNINGS.**

Lebanon.....	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	—	5
Lancaster.....	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	2

Earned runs—Lancaster, 2. Two-base hits—Moran, Cross, Gill. Three-base hit—Cross.

Sterling is becoming a first-class pitcher. With proper support he will win a majority of his games.

Lancaster New Era May 8, 1890

HARRISBURG.					LANCASTER.						
R.	H.	P.	O.	A.	R.	H.	P.	O.	A.		
Egan, 2b.	3	2	3	3	1	Gill, ss.	0	0	4	5	2
Grant, 3b.	3	3	0	6	1	O'Hara, 1b.	0	0	10	0	0
Jones, lf.	3	2	2	0	0	Egan, 2b.	0	1	1	1	0
Williams, c.	4	2	10	1	0	Kline, p.	0	1	0	2	0
McCor'k, 1b.	2	1	8	1	0	Goodhart, cf.	0	1	0	2	
Deasley, ss.	4	2	2	2	0	Mishler, rf.	0	2	0	0	0
Hooverter, rf.	3	4	0	1	0	Riley, lf.	0	2	5	0	1
Vallee, cf.	1	2	2	1	0	Fox, 3b.	0	0	0	0	0
Gamble, p.	1	2	0	1	0	Sterling, cf.	3	9	1	2	1
						Snyder, p.	0	0	0	2	0
Total....	24	20	27	16	2	Total....	0	7	3	11	8

\*Egan out for not running.

**INNINGS.**

Last box score with Sterling; club folded May 27, 1890  
Lancaster New Era May 24, 1890

# Sterling

Position: Pitcher

Bats: Unknown • Throws: Unknown

Debut: October 12, 1890 (1,571st in MLB history)

Last Game: October 12, 1890

SUMMARY	WAR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	SO	WHIP
Career	-0.4	0	1	21.60	1	1	0	5.0	1	4.000

## Standard Pitching

Year	Age	Tm	Lg	W	L	W-L%	ERA	G	GS	GF	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	IBB	SO	HBP	BK	WP	BF	ERA+	FIP	WHIP	H9	HR9	BB9	SO9	SO/W	Awards
1890	--	PHA	AA	0	1	.000	21.60	1	1	0	1	0	0	5.0	16	12	12	1	4		1	1	0	0	36	19	8.12	4.000	28.8	1.8	7.2	1.8	0.25	
1 Yr				0	1	.000	21.60	1	1	0	1	0	0	5.0	16	12	12	1	4		1	1	0	0	36	19	8.12	4.000	28.8	1.8	7.2	1.8	0.25	
162 Game Avg.				0	34	.000	21.60	34	34	0	34	0	0	170	544	408	408	34	136		34	34	0	0	1224	19	8.12	4.000	28.8	1.8	7.2	1.8	0.25	

## Player Value--Pitching

Year	Age	Tm	Lg	IP	G	GS	R	RA9	RA9opp	RA9def	RA9role	PPFp	RA9avg	RAA	WAA	gmLI	WAAadj	WAR	RAR	waaWL%	162WL%	Salary	Awards
1890	--	PHA	AA	5.0	1	1	12	21.60	5.63	-1.25	0.00	100.0	6.89	-8	-0.4		0.0	-0.4	-8	.115	.498		
1 Season				5.0	1	1	12	21.60	5.63	-1.25	0.00	100.0	6.89	-8	-0.4		0.0	-0.4	-8	.115	.498		

## Biographical Information

A man named **Sterling** is one of four amateur players who made their only major league appearance for the [Philadelphia Athletics](#) of the [American Association](#) on [October 12, 1890](#) against the [Syracuse Stars](#). It was the last game of the season, and was played in [Gloucester, NJ](#). Early researchers confused this Sterling with a *John Sterling*, who was a minor league player at the time, but it is very unlikely that the two were the same man. In fact, it is likely that this Sterling was not even named John, as the only other detail known about him is that he was from [Camden, NJ](#). In spite of that, he was wrongly been listed in encyclopedias as "John" Sterling for over 100 years. His three mysterious teammates for that day are [Ham Sweigert](#), [John McBride](#) and [Bob Stafford](#).

## Further Reading

"October 12, 1890", in Bill Carle, ed. *Biographical Research Committee Report*, September/October 2007, [Society for American Baseball Research](#), Cleveland, OH, 2007. p. 1.

The visitors took kindly to the curves of Sterling, a young man of Camden, who was arrayed in a black cloth suit, with low cut vest and white stand-up collar, and before they had finished with him the Jerseyman's spirits were as wilted as his collar. In five innings they hit the ball fifteen times and batted out twelve runs, unassisted by a single fielding error. Two of the hits were doubles and one a home run. The score:

ATHLETIC (A. A.)						SYRACUSE (A. A.)					
R.	IB.	P.	A.	E.		R.	IB.	P.	A.	E.	
Carman, 2b.	1	1	3	2	0	Friel, rf.	1	0	0	0	0
Knox, 1b.	1	1	4	0	0	Simon, cf.	3	4	1	0	0
Daily, c.	0	2	1	3	0	Childs, 2b.	2	2	2	4	0
Crawf'd, ss.	0	0	2	3	0	Ely, lf.	0	2	0	0	0
O'Neil, 3b.	0	0	3	1	0	McQue'y, 1b	1	2	6	0	0
Sweigert, lf	0	0	1	1	0	O'Ro'ke, 3b	1	1	0	0	0
Stafford, rf.	0	0	0	0	0	Briggs, c.	2	2	6	1	0
McBride, cf	0	0	1	1	0	Pitz, ss.	1	1	0	1	0
Sterling, p.	0	0	0	0	0	Marr, p.	1	2	0	2	0
Totals	2	4	15	11	0	Totals	12	16	15	8	0

INNINGS.

Athletic	2	0	0	0	0-2
Syracuse	1	6	3	2	0-12

Philadelphia Inquirer October 13, 1890

JOHN STERLING, the young pitcher whom St. Louis is holding pending trial, complains that Brunell did him an injustice. Sterling went no further than Baltimore with the Browns. He was there taken sick and came back to Philadelphia, where he now is awaiting Comiskey's orders, consequently he could not have been tried in Cleve'and and released. Sterling also says that neither Boylo or Milligan spoke disparagingly of his ability, but that, on the contrary, both are pleased with him, and that the only reason why he has not yet received a trial is because just now the race is too close, and there is no "padding" in the Association this year to try new men on.

## SPORTING LIFE.

Aug. 15.