From the Negro Leagues to the Major Leagues:


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Chapter 1: Introduction

From the late 19th century until 1947, Major League Baseball (MLB, the Majors, the Show or the Big Show) was segregated. During those years, African Americans played in the Negro Leagues and were not allowed to play in either the MLB or the minor league affiliates of the Major League teams (the Minor Leagues). The Negro Leagues existed as a separate entity from the Major Leagues and though structured similarly to MLB, the leagues were not equal.

The objective of my thesis is to cover how and why MLB integrated and the impact of MLB's racial integration on three prominent Negro League teams. The thesis will begin with a review of the three Negro League teams that produced the most future Major Leaguers. I will review the rise of those teams to the top of the Negro Leagues and then the decline of each team after its superstar(s) moved over to the Major Leagues when MLB integrated. All three teams came out of different regions: the Midwest, the Northeast, and the South. Following the review of the three Negro League teams, the thesis will analyze the road to integration in baseball and the reasons why MLB finally became integrated. The thesis will conclude by showing how once baseball became integrated, it took an extended period of time for every team to follow suit and racially integrate.

Negro League baseball was very important to the African American communities that fielded teams. Because baseball was segregated, it was important for the Negro Leagues to become an organized entity. The Negro Leagues did this by creating leagues similar to those in MLB and finished off each season with a World Series consisting of the league winners.
The Negro Leagues became organized in 1920 with the founding of the Negro National League (NNL) and the Negro Southern League (NSL).\(^1\) The two leagues were running strong but there was no real way to tell which team was the best in the Negro Leagues. Then in 1937, many teams that were in the NSL or were formerly independent went on to join the Negro American League (NAL), giving the Negro Leagues two dominant leagues. With the NSL becoming much weaker after the formation of the NAL, the winners of the NNL and the NAL would play in the Negro Leagues World Series from 1942 to 1948. This gave the Negro Leagues a similar feel to the Majors.\(^2\)

The first team covered in the thesis is the Kansas City Monarchs out of the Midwest. The Midwest was a hotbed for Negro League baseball with many other successful teams located in that region. The Monarchs contained the largest number of future Major Leaguers with 14, and were followed by the Cleveland Buckeyes who produced three future Major Leaguers and a Negro Leagues World Series title. The Chicago American Giants also sent three players to the Major Leagues.\(^3\)

The second team presented, the Homestead Grays, played in the Northeast and produced eight future Major Leaguers. The Northeast developed more future Major Leaguers than any other region in Negro League baseball. Other teams in the Northeast that were successful in producing future Major Leaguers were the New

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York Cubans and the Newark Eagles. The Cubans and Eagles sent seven and five players, respectively.\textsuperscript{4}

The final team presented, the Birmingham Black Barons, became the most dominant team in the South. The Black Barons helped train seven future Major Leaguers. The Baltimore Elite Giants (who eventually merged with the Black Barons) followed the Black Barons four future Major Leaguers. Of the three regions where Negro League baseball was played, the South produced the fewest Major Leaguers.\textsuperscript{5}

Following the three Negro League teams that will be covered, the thesis will cover the reasons why baseball was integrated, along with the series of events that led to Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier. It is important to know that though Robinson first appeared in the Majors in 1947, it wasn’t until 1959 that all of the MLB teams were racially integrated.

The African American talent that integrated to the Major Leagues was generally made up of young players. Because of this, many of the Negro League legends did not get the chance to play in the Major Leagues. What Robinson did for African Americans and baseball as a whole was great but it is important that many of the great Negro League players before him that didn’t get a chance to play in the Majors are not forgotten.

\textsuperscript{4} Reilly
\textsuperscript{5} Reilly
Chapter 2: Kansas City Monarchs

The Kansas City Monarchs were one of the best-known Negro League teams. Throughout their existence from 1920 to 1962, the Monarchs fielded 14 future big leaguers, none more important than Jackie Robinson. But Monarchs were so much more than just a baseball team; they played an important role in the overall Kansas City area as well as with the African American community. With a strictly segregated community, the Monarchs gave a sense of pride to the loved fans, with great attendance for the most part throughout their existence.

The scene of Kansas City’s African American community from 1925 through World War II was a wild one. With many bars, clubs, and music halls, saloonkeeper Milton Morris claimed, “Kansas City was swinging. Nobody slept - they were afraid they’d miss something.”

Though it may have been lively, the Kansas City African American community endured many of the common problems of a segregated culture. Their portion of the city had the highest rate of people renting in the city, which also led to the lowest percentage of homeowners. Illiteracy was ten times higher and the crime rate was double that of the white areas.

Because of the conditions of the Kansas City African American community, being a baseball player became a very popular dream for many Black athletes. Baseball players received good salaries compared to the pay Blacks received in other industrial jobs. Their celebrity status in the African American community also

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7 Bruce, 39.
appealed to many young aspiring athletes. Baseball players got to travel throughout the country, visiting places that in most instances they would not have been able to if they were not ballplayers. Though the players had to face a great deal of racism in their travels, their life was a very popular one.\textsuperscript{8}

Monarch Shortstop Jesse Williams stated, “It was the ambition of every black boy to be a Monarch, just as it was for every white boy to become a Yankee...That was the tradition back then. You didn’t play ball till you became a Monarch.”\textsuperscript{9}

The superstar-pitching ace for the Monarchs, Hamilton Smith, added on to what Williams said about the pride of being a Monarch. Smith claimed, “When you got with the Monarchs, you were as high as you could go.”\textsuperscript{10}

These two statements show how great the prestige of being a Monarch was for African Americans in the Midwest. Before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, the thought of making the Minor Leagues, let alone the Major Leagues remained a pipe dream. Because of this, the players also took a sense of pride in their Negro League teams and in their reputation in the Negro Leagues.

Due to the racism that the Negro League players, and African Americans as a whole, faced during these times, it was really important for the players to set high standards and be role models for the community. Add the fact that the owner of the Monarchs, J.L. Wilkinson (who was white), had very strong religious beliefs (not allowing the Monarchs to play on Sundays originally), made it important to have a good clean image as players.

\textsuperscript{8} Bruce, 39.  
\textsuperscript{9} Bruce, 40.  
\textsuperscript{10} Bruce, 40.
John “Buck” O’Neil, legendary first baseman for the Monarchs defined the standards for being a Monarch as the following:

Actually not only the management but the ball players would hand-pick the guys that they thought was good enough physically and good enough morally to play. We could see that it would happen. A Monarch never cut anybody. You couldn’t shoot craps on our bus, in our hotel, with our manager. Some of the ball clubs could do this, but to be a Monarch you couldn’t. Not and let the manager know. This was the Kansas City Monarchs!\textsuperscript{11}

O’Neil’s statement reflected the views from the top with Wilkinson. Many White people had such negative views of Black people, that it was critical that one of the “faces” of the African American population, the Kansas City Monarchs, was a clean one. O’Neil also added, “Everybody tried to prove that they were good fellows, they were nice…We all knew that the only way to open that door- you had to be on your best behavior.”\textsuperscript{12}

Though the Monarchs’ players basically achieved the goal of maintaining this clean image, many did participate in the wild Kansas City scene. A Bartender named Kingfish Fisher stated, “Wasn’t nothing but vice in this town back in them days. [The Monarchs] was in between vice and what we called Society. Society on one side, vice on the other. Sometimes they would come together.”\textsuperscript{13}

In an attempt to keep the club’s image clean even with the partying the players partook in, Wilkinson would fine or cut players completely if they preferred to go to parties more than playing for the Monarchs. As long as the team was playing hard,

\textsuperscript{11} Bruce, 41.
\textsuperscript{12} Bruce, 41.
\textsuperscript{13} Bruce, 42.
even if they were losing games, Wilkinson and the fans didn’t mind the partying scene if they stayed out of trouble.\textsuperscript{14}

The Kansas City Monarchs games were more than just games to the fans; they were social events as well. Once they began to play on Sundays again, the Monarch games were the event of the town, getting four to five thousand people to the games regularly. O’Neil stated, “They wore their finery! You know, today you go to the ball game casual. You’ve never seen anything like this. They’d have their fur stoles on and their hats on- just like they left Church. They leave Church and come to the ball game.”\textsuperscript{15}

The attendance levels on Sunday home games for the Monarchs were some of the best in the Negro Leagues. Robert Peterson, author of \textit{Only the Ball Was White: A History of Legendary Black Players and All-Black Professional Teams} said, “During the regular season, Kansas City could expect to attract 10,000 for a Sunday doubleheader against the (Chicago) American Giants.”\textsuperscript{16}

This statement gives a nice accurate description of the pride the community took in their team. Even on weekday games, there was a strong group of around 500 fans that would regularly attend. Though the Monarchs were an all-Black player team, they drew a good number of White fans to the games as well. The Black/White mix at the games was around 50-50. Because their Minor League counterpart, the Kansas City Blues, was weak, this helped bring in white fans.\textsuperscript{17}

\textsuperscript{14} Bruce, 43.
\textsuperscript{15} Bruce, 44.
\textsuperscript{16} Peterson, 99
\textsuperscript{17} Bruce, 44-45.
But by the time the mid-1920s came around, Negro League baseball fell on hard times and getting people to come to games became a difficult task. Because of this, Wilkinson had to reduce box-seat prices from $1.10 to $.75, making the ticket the lowest in the Negro National League. The fan support began to come back in the years following with the formation of the Kansas City's Booster Club. With the help of the Booster Club, the attendance and support for the team increased greatly, as the advertising for the game increased in local businesses and the events put on by the Booster Club.18

While other Negro League teams would play in cities with a larger African American population and in sizeable Major League stadiums, the Monarchs’ crowds would still often be larger than those other teams. The Booster Club had a lot to do with this, helping promote the team to the community, leading to larger attendance figures even though they played in a Minor League ballpark.19

The Booster Club would sponsor banquets for the team, and opening day parades as well. The membership fees of the Booster Club would help support other team related activities. One of these was giving each player on the 1925 Negro League World Series club a golden baseball charm. In 1929, the Booster Club had a Grand Ball for the players and fans, calling it the “First Annual Kansas City Monarchs Home Coming Dance and Frolic.”20

Though the Booster Club was a great help to get the team back to prominence and increasing attendance, Wilkinson didn’t completely rely on them for help with

18 Bruce, 45.
20 Bruce, 48.
the team. He used a technique called "hell’s on fire" for publicity with the team. This included blanketing newspapers with news on the team. He, along with his secretary and help from wives of players sent articles on the team and how they were doing to 36 newspapers for Black and White audiences. Other ways of getting excitement for the club and boosting attendance was by offering prizes to fans who could guess the score of the opening game, as well as getting free admission to fans who purchased cars from local dealers.²¹

Possibly one of the most successful marketing tools Wilkinson used for the Monarchs was having ladies nights. He offered free or half-price admission to the women who attended games on certain nights. One such example of this was Tuesday ladies’ nights in the 1923 season. On these nights nearly two thousand women would show up.²²

When the fans began to show up again at the games, the local newspapers, Black and White, began to cover the Monarchs more thanks to Wilkinson’s methods of marketing. The Kansas City Call gave detailed stories on the Monarchs, as well as on the rest of the Negro National League’s teams. Even the white-oriented Kansas City Star had unbiased coverage of the team and included box scores, though they didn’t cover all of the games.²³

The coverage of Negro Leagues by the media was not as extensive as the coverage of the Major or Minor Leagues. For example, teams sometimes would not send in losing scorebooks to the newspapers on a timely basis. But the coverage of

²¹ Bruce, 49-50.
²² Bruce, 50.
²³ Bruce, 53.
the Negro Leagues continued to improve throughout the years. Another problem with the reporting of the Negro League games, even of the Monarchs, was that the players were well known in the community. Often writers would put in nicknames instead of first names, which possibly confused the fans.24

Like many other Negro League teams, the Monarchs had trouble with the racism in America on away trips. Many hotels would not let the players stay overnight when they came into town. The Monarchs had a backup plan for this however, sleeping in overnight sleeping cars while traveling. Wilkinson also tried to create a network of friendly hotels and cities where the Monarchs could stay without feeling threatened by the segregation.25

As with many Americans, the Great Depression hit the Monarchs hard, but Wilkinson had a plan to help keep the team afloat. Wilkinson had purchased portable lights from Giant Manufacturing Company out of Omaha, Nebraska. This allowed for people who wouldn't be able to make the games due to day jobs to be able to attend games.26

This type of forward thinking by the ownership of the Monarchs helped keep them in the forefront of the Negro Leagues, even through the tough economic times of the 1930s. This helped push the team forward to one of the dominant forces of the 1940s, where they were producing many future stars in the Negro Leagues and future Major Leaguers.

24 Bruce, 53.
25 Bruce, 61.
26 Bruce, 68-71.
While the Great Depression hurt the Monarchs, World War II helped the team greatly. The Monarchs would consistently draw around 7,000 on average, and up to 40,000 when Satchel Paige would take the mound. Their white counterparts, the Blues, were struggling to pull in the crowds that the Monarchs drew. Their dominance can be seen by the titles won during this era. The Monarchs won the pennant in 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1946 and 1950.27

The Monarchs’ dominance on the field would lead to 14 division titles and pennants, and two Negro League World Series titles, in 1924 and in 1942 sweeping the Homestead Grays in four games.28

A member of the Kansas City Monarchs who would forever change baseball was Jackie Robinson. Robinson only played one year with the Monarchs, and then signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers and Branch Rickey in 1945. Rickey claimed to have intended on creating a new African American League called the United States League (USL), with Robinson playing for his Brooklyn Brown Dodgers in the USL. The league never came to be and Rickey instead assigned Robinson to Triple A Montreal in 1946, and crossed the color barrier the next year.29

Robinson crossing the color barrier signaled the beginning of the end for the Monarchs, and for the Negro Leagues in general. Attendance at games began to decline, as many African Americans were more interested in following the Robinson story instead of going to Negro League games. The Monarchs were able to survive at

27 Bruce, 100-101.
29 Bruce, 110-111.
first because the Midwestern and Southern teams had fewer Major League teams in
their regions to compete with than did their Negro League counterparts in the
Northeast.30

The Monarchs were one of the prominent teams in the Negro Leagues,
producing 14 future major leaguers as well as numerous pennants.31 They were
different in that their owner was white. With many different promotions
throughout their run, the Monarchs were really the team of the city, embracing the
African American community of Kansas City. Of all the great players to come from
the Monarchs, Jackie Robinson was most prominent, crossing the color barrier,
which indirectly led to the fall of the Monarchs.

**Monarchs that made the Major Leagues:**32
Eugene Walter Baker
Ernest Banks
Frank Barnes
Willard Jesse Brown
Elston Howard
Clifford Johnson, Jr.
John Jordan O’Niell
Satchel Paige
Curtis Benjamin Roberts
Jack Roosevelt Robinson
Henry Curtis Thompson
Robert Burns Thurman
Quincy Thomas Trouppe

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30 Bruce, 116.
31 Reilly
32 See Appendix I
Chapter 3: Homestead Grays

The Homestead Grays were also one of the most prominent and successful teams in Negro League Baseball. Officially formed in 1912, the Grays started in Homestead, PA, a steel town located near Pittsburgh. Many African Americans migrated from Pittsburgh to Homestead after the steel strike of 1892, finding work at the Homestead Works of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Company. In 1920, Cumberland Posey went from Centerfielder and Manager to become the full time Owner and Manager of the Grays.\(^{33}\)

The Grays were very successful as an independent team playing against various other Negro League teams. They soon became the biggest force in the Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia baseball scene. The dominance of the Grays can be seen by the nine straight pennants they won from 1937 to 1945, the nine players inducted to the Hall of Fame, and the eight players that once played on the Grays that jumped the color barrier to play in the Major Leagues.\(^{34}\)

Because of the fact that the Kansas City Monarchs produced thirteen future Major Leaguers including Jackie Robinson, the Grays tend to be less known than their Midwest rival. The Grays had many similarities to the Monarchs from having newspapers write articles and cover the team, to being a staple in their respective African American communities, and to taking a large hit financially during the years of the Great Depression.


\(^{34}\) Snyder, 35.
From the years 1912 to 1929, Posey claimed that the Grays had made money in each year, an impressive feat for Black baseball. Following the 1929 season though, the Grays took a large hit financially and couldn’t pay all of the talent on the team. The newly formed Pittsburgh Crawfords appeared to have the financial capability to take on the stars that the Grays couldn’t afford to keep during the early 1930’s, which made matters worse for the Grays. Some of the players that crossed the river to the Crawfords include Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, Judy Johnson, Ted Page and Oscar Charleston.35

The rise of the Crawfords did help the Grays in one respect as the owner for the Crawfords, William A. “Gus” Greenlee, built a stadium in the city named after him. Greenlee Field was located in the Black district of Pittsburgh, and held almost 7,500 seats. The Grays were allowed to play home games in the new Greenlee Field, along with Forbes Field, the home of the Major League Pittsburgh Pirates.36

In 1934, the Grays became an associate member of the Negro National League, which was comprised of the Eastern Negro League Teams. The next year they would receive full membership allowing the Grays to play a full NNL schedule. Following that, Posey added a new business partner, Rufus “Sonnyman” Jackson, an African American underworld booster who ran a racket in Homestead. The hiring of Jackson was on par with many other Negro League teams, with many of them being funded by racketeers and underworld bosses. The addition of Jackson helped the team get back afloat, and also bought the team a new bus.37

35 Snyder, 40-41.
36 Snyder, 41-42.
37 Snyder, 42-43.
By 1937, the Crawfords fell on hard times, leaving the Grays as the dominant team in the Pittsburgh area. Gibson went back to play for the Grays that year and helped propel them to the Negro National League title that year. With Gibson and Buck Leonard leading the Grays, they went on to win nine straight NNL pennants from 1937 to 1945, and then won a tenth pennant in 1948. The Grays won three Negro League World Series Titles during this stretch too, defeating the Birmingham Black Barons all three times in 1943, 1944 and 1948.3839

Though many White newspapers wouldn’t cover the Grays, as was the case with many other Negro League teams, they did get good coverage by the local African American newspaper, *The Pittsburgh Courier*. When the news was spread that the Grays could be moving to Washington D.C., *The Pittsburgh Courier* had many fans write letters in the paper for support. One such support letter from a fan read as follows:

> It is the duty of every colored baseball fan of Pittsburgh to give the Homestead Grays his whole-hearted support…The Grays belong to this city. It is a great team and a credit to our community. Let us, as a race, give this great team our full measure of appreciation and support. It is our duty."40

This reaction was a great example of how the citizens and the community as a whole felt towards the Grays, and the support that the newspaper had as well.

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40 Snyder, 53.
As the years went on, the Grays were forced to play more of their games at Forbes Field where it was harder to draw fans. The field was not convenient to the African American communities, and in 1939 the Grays claimed that they wanted to move their home games to Washington D.C from Pittsburgh. The fact that the African American population in Pittsburgh didn’t exponentially grow over the first half of the 1900s like it did in cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington made the move even more logical for the Grays.41

The Grays began to play some of their home games in Washington in 1940. Their part time home was Griffith Stadium, the home park of the Washington Senators. With the growing and educated African American population and baseball history in the Washington area, this seemed to be a good fit for the Grays. Also with Washington being a convenient rail hub and easily accessible from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, it seemed to be a home run move.42

The move gave the Grays a new name, becoming the Washington Homestead Grays, as they still did play some games in Pittsburgh as well. The attendance playing in Washington was not what they wished however, only getting between three and four thousand a game on weekends. The team did however post a profit in 1941, making the move a successful one at first.

Along with the African American community being avid Senator fans, another reason why the Grays didn’t catch on right away was the fact that they had a white promoter. Joe Holdman became the agent for the Grays due to his connections with promoting Griffith Stadium events from his days as a sportswriter for the

41 Snyder, 53.
42 Snyder, 87-88.
Holdman did not capitalize on the most important and free advertising tool in Black baseball, the Black press. They did have some newspaper coverage from the *Afro-American*, along with the *Courier* as they covered and reported the Grays games at Griffith Stadium, and in Pittsburgh.\textsuperscript{43}

Like many other Negro League Teams, World War II helped the Grays tremendously. Because many Major Leaguers were drafted into the war, most team’s rosters became depleted of talent, thus pushing the thought of integration in baseball. The economy also benefited African Americans during this time as the number of blacks working government jobs in Washington increased. For the new Washington residents, the Grays became their adopted team as the Senators had taken a huge downturn, becoming a bottom-dweller in the Major Leagues.

The Grays roster did not lose as many players to the war as other Negro League teams. They had six players drafted into the war, where the Philadelphia Stars and the Newark Eagles had 13 and 12 drafted, respectively. One major reason for the majority of the roster staying intact for the Grays was its aging roster that had injuries or had players too old to be drafted.\textsuperscript{44}

The Grays followed the Monarchs and many other Negro Leagues teams in giving out free passes to important community members, including ministers and wealthy businessmen. The Grays hired Art Carter (who came up with these marketing methods) as the team’s publicity reporter to the African American community. Teams found it important to be involved in the community, and by

\textsuperscript{43} Snyder, 88-89.
\textsuperscript{44} Snyder, 100-101.
giving out free passes to important church members, this could help boost the attendance for their games.45

As the Grays grew in popularity in the Washington DC metropolitan area, so did the call for integration from the African American press. One of the biggest promoters for integration in baseball was Afro-American sports columnist Sam Lacy, an African American sports writer. Lacy was in a constant battle with Major League Baseball commissioner Judge Landis as well as Washington Senators owner Clark Griffith over the issue. The issue became a hotbed in both White and African American newspapers, with Lacy consistently bashing Griffith and his segregationist views.

It appeared that Griffith would get anybody but African Americans to play for his Senators. This irked Lacy even more, creating a personal war with Griffith. In his articles in the Afro-American, Lacy exposed Griffith's discrimination in the hiring process, and vowed to win the integration battle, whether in Washington or elsewhere in the country. The personal battles that the African American sports writers went through for integration goes hand in hand with their personal struggles as well. Like the African American baseball players, black sports writers had to deal with less than desired accommodations as well as not being allowed membership in the Baseball Writers Association of America.46

Another proponent for integration in the Washington DC metropolitan area was Shirley Povich, a White sports writer for the Washington Post. After watching a Grays spring training game against the Newark Eagles, Povich noted the great talent

45 Snyder, 104-106.
46 Snyder, 186-187.
on the Grays. He went on to write the following in the *Washington Post* in April 1939:

Curious Washington (Senators) players flocked to the game and went away with a deep respect for colored baseball. Walter Johnson sat in a box at the game, profoundly impressed with the talents of the colored players. ‘There’ he said, ‘is a catcher that any big league club would like to buy for $200,000. His name is Gibson. They call him ‘Hoot’ Gibson, and he can do everything. He hits the ball a mile. And he catches so easy he might as well be in a rocking chair. Throws like a rifle. Bill Dickey isn’t as good a catcher. Too bad this Gibson is a colored fellow.’

This publicity from a White newspaper appeared to be a giant step towards integration. Though it may have helped people think integration could be coming soon and that African American players were good enough to play in the Major Leagues, it still took six more years until Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, and eight until he played in a Major League game.

It would appear that both Lacy and Povich would be on the same team in favor for integration, but that was far from the case. Both writers would consistently bash each other in their columns, with Lacy saying Povich was not really in favor of segregation due to his relationship with Griffith. Povich responded by quoting that Lacy said, “No Negro Leaguers were ready for the majors.” Lacy was furious responding that he was misquoted, that he really said “No Negro Leaguers were ready for the majors without at least a year in the minors.”

Povich was later nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for his 15 part series in the *Washington Post* called “No More Shutouts” in hopes to end segregation in baseball.

This series gained the respect of many African American sports writers and really

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47 Snyder, 194.
48 Snyder, 196.
helped push forward the integration process. It is unfortunate that Lacy and Povich could not settle their differences, as they could have each helped each other, with integration possibly coming quicker to the Washington DC area.\textsuperscript{49}

Along with Landis and Griffith, Grays owner Posey also played a part in the slowing of integration of baseball in Washington. It wasn’t as if Posey was against equal rights for fellow African Americans (as was the general belief by hardcore segregationists in the baseball community), but integration would hurt him financially as it would be the end to the Grays. Posey was put in a really awkward position, he couldn’t be vocal against integration because that would ruin relations with the African American community, but he knew that if/when it came his business would be dead.\textsuperscript{50}

The first steps of integration did finally come however in 1945 when Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey signed Grays pitcher John Wright, assigning him to Triple A Montreal with Jackie Robinson. Though he didn’t succeed in Montreal, the signing of Wright showed that integration had finally come in baseball, especially in the nation’s capital.\textsuperscript{51}

Though Jackie Robinson never played for the Grays, the crossing of the color barrier affected them greatly. Instead of attending Grays games, many fans started to follow the Robinson story, and to attend Senators games when they would play the Cleveland Indians (with Doby and Paige) in American League play. This hurt the

\textsuperscript{49} Snyder, 200-201.
\textsuperscript{50} Snyder, 206.
\textsuperscript{51} Snyder, 238.
team financially, eventually leading to the downfall of the Grays, with 1950 being its last year in existence.\textsuperscript{52}

The Homestead Grays were one of the most successful franchises in Negro League baseball, almost always producing winning teams on the field along with many future Hall-of-Famers. Starting out in the suburbs of Pittsburgh and gaining the support of the African American paper \textit{Pittsburgh Courier}, they continued to get support from the African American community following their move to Washington DC with the help of the \textit{Afro-American}. Though the Grays played in the stadium owned by one of the biggest segregationists in Griffith, with the support of both White and Black sports writers, the Grays were finally able to produce a player to play in the newly integrated minor leagues in John Wright in 1946. Following Wright, the Grays ended up producing eight future Major Leaguers.\textsuperscript{53}

\textbf{Grays that made the Major Leagues:}\textsuperscript{54}

Luscious Easter
David Taylor Hoskins
Samuel Jones
Luis Angel M\textsuperscript{arquez}
David Pope
Robert Burns Thurman
Robert Lee Trice
Quincy Thomas Trouppe

\textsuperscript{52} Snyder, 247, 262.
\textsuperscript{53} Reilly
\textsuperscript{54} See Appendix I
Chapter 4: Birmingham Black Barons

In the South, the most prominent Negro League team was the Birmingham Black Barons. The Black Barons produced the third most future Major Leaguers of all of the Negro League teams, with seven former players making the jump to the Big Show. Almost always putting out a competitive team, the Black Barons drew consistently large crowds, and ended up staying in baseball longer than any of their Negro League counterparts.

In 1920, the Birmingham Black Barons were one of the eight original invitees to form the Negro National League, changing their name from the Birmingham Stars to the Black Barons that year as well. Though they originally didn’t join the Negro National League (playing in the Negro Southern League from 1920-1922), in 1923 they became an associate member and reached full membership in 1925. The Barons rosters typically consisted of young African American men who played in local industrial leagues (which became to be known as the ‘minor leagues’ for the Negro Leagues). Many of the industrial teams were formed from coal and steel workers, with baseball being a hoped for vehicle to make a better living.55

The Black Barons had a great deal of success throughout the twenties, drawing great crowds playing in Rickwood Field. However, as with many other Negro League teams, the Great Depression greatly affected the Black Barons. They were forced to leave the Negro National League and go back to the Negro Southern League in 1931.

Playing at Rickwood Field was very important to the Black Barons. The park is the oldest in baseball currently, opening in 1910 (before both Fenway Park and Wrigley Field). The Black Barons shared the field with their White counterpart, Minor League Birmingham Barons. The Black Barons, with their success on the field and popularity in the community, drew equal crowds with the White Barons, as well as receiving a great deal of publicity and media coverage in the stadium.\textsuperscript{56}

With the Black Barons being able to play their games in one of the most historic park in baseball, this helped draw many fans to watch them play. Many other Negro League teams shared ballparks with white Major or Minor League teams, but few were able to get the immense support that the Black Barons received. Part of this was because unlike the Northeast and Midwest, there weren’t as many great teams in the South to compete against the Black Barons both on the field and in drawing crowds.

Church life was an important part in the African American communities in Birmingham. The Black Barons played home games on every other Sunday, switching off with the Barons. The Churches in the area would often let out services early on days when the Black Barons had home games. This became a true sign of the sense of community and pride that Birmingham had with their Black Barons. The Church leaders would often then meet the people at the game, making the game a community event.\textsuperscript{57}

The 1940’s were the era where the Black Barons would come back to prominence, with new ownership and joining the Negro American League. Tom

\textsuperscript{56} Ben Berntson, “Rickwood Field,” in \textit{Encyclopedia of Alabama.}

\textsuperscript{57} Larry Powell, “Birmingham Black Barons,” in \textit{Encyclopedia of Alabama.}
Hayes, a local Birmingham hotel owner, bought the team in 1940. Hayes not only helped bring the Black Barons back to prominence, but also played a large role in the success of the Negro Leagues. Because Hayes was a hotel owner, he often lodged the visiting team’s players in his Rush Hotel.

Hayes worked with Harlem Globetrotters owner Abe Saperstein in helping with booking trips and teams to play as well as bringing in great talent. Some Black Barons would then play with or train with the Globetrotters in the offseason to stay in shape and as a possible source of extra income. With the increased talent on the Black Barons, they had their best three years of their storied history during the decade.\textsuperscript{58}

In 1943 the Black Barons won the Negro American League pennant, but lost to the Homestead Grays in the Negro League World Series in seven games. The Black Barons followed that year up by winning the NAL again in 1944, but once again lost to the Grays in the World Series, this time in five games. Their third and final run for the World Series came in 1948. The Black Barons won the Negro American League that year with the help of a young Willie Mays, but once again the fell to the Grays in the World Series in seven games.\textsuperscript{59}

The 1948 World Series was considered the last of the Negro Leagues World Series as the Negro National League folded. Once Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers the year before, African American players now had a chance to play in the Big Leagues, leading to the downfall of the Negro Leagues. Though many

\textsuperscript{58} Powell, 33.
\textsuperscript{59} Powell, 34,44.
teams were folding and the Negro Leagues were failing, the Black Barons kept playing games until 1960.

In 1952, Hayes sold the team to Sue Bridgeworth, Baltimore Elite Giants owner. In the transaction, Bridgeworth ended the Elite Giants run, taking some of the players from Baltimore down to Birmingham. But Bridgeworth went on to sell the team in 1954 and with a number of Negro League teams folding in that difficult time for Negro League baseball. By 1956, there were only four teams left in the Negro American League. With so few teams left in Black baseball, there was far less competition, which in turn led to the Black Barons winning their first Negro League Championship in 1959.\(^{60}\)

The following season became the last one for the Black Barons, and Negro League baseball as a whole failed in 1960. With the major talent already gone from the Black Barons with that talent going to either the integrated Major and Minor Leagues on international teams. Negro League baseball, including the Black Barons, simply didn’t have the talent and flair to draw big enough crowds to stay afloat.\(^{61}\)

One of the most famous Black Barons and future Major Leagues superstar was Willie Mays. Mays started his career with the Black Barons as a 17 year old high school student in 1948. Mays had trouble in his first season, understandably for a high school student, only hitting one home run and stealing one base while hitting .262. As he matured with the Black Barons over the following two seasons, his batting average and power increased. In 1949, Mays batted .311, and followed that up the next year with a .330 average, while slugging .547. This improvement and his

\(^{60}\) Powell, 50-51.

\(^{61}\) Powell, 51.
good batting statistics at a young age with the Black Barons led the New York Giants to sign him following the 1950 season.\textsuperscript{62}

By the end of the Black Barons run they had become one of the dominant teams in the South and Negro League Baseball as a whole. The Black Barons were an important part of the Birmingham African American community, receiving a great following at their home games at Rickwood Field. The team drew equal crowds as the White Birmingham Barons, and received equal press coverage. There were five players who made the National Baseball Hall of Fame who had played for the Black Barons (Willie Mays, Satchel Paige, Willie Wells, Bill Foster and Mule Suttles). Add the fact that seven players who at one point suited up for the Black Barons went on to play in the Major Leagues, the Black Barons were the class of Negro League baseball in the South.

\textbf{Black Barons that made the Major Leagues:}\textsuperscript{63}
Daniel Robert Bankhead  
William Greason  
Sam Hairston  
Jehosie Heard  
Willie Howard Mays, Jr.  
Satchel Paige  
Arthur Lee Wilson

\textsuperscript{62} Reilly, 523-524.  
\textsuperscript{63} See Appendix I
Chapter 5: Integration

Major League Baseball became officially integrated in 1947 when Jackie Robinson played on the opening day with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Though this didn’t happen until 1947, throughout the early 1940s there was a feeling in the Negro Leagues that the Major and Minor Leagues would soon be integrated. Many factors went into this feeling including the continuation of World War II, the death of Commissioner, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and advocacy for integration by the African American media.

Executives seemed to think about the idea of African Americans playing in the Majors was nearing, but felt that the general public was not ready for it yet. National League President, Ford Frick, claimed in 1939, “Many baseball fans are of the opinion that Major League Baseball does not want Negro players, but that is not true. We have always been interested in Negro players, but have not used them because we feel that the general public has not been educated to the point where they will accept them on the same standard as they do the White players.”

Cub’s owner Phillip K. Wrigley, Jr. held similar beliefs to Frick. In 1942, Wrigley said to the Chicago-based Citizens Committee for Negroes in the Big Leagues, “I would like to see Negroes in the big leagues...I know it’s got to come. But I don’t think the time is now...the public must be prepared to accept Negro Players.”

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64 Hogan & Tygiel, 332.
65 Hogan & Tygiel, 332.
Minor League baseball appeared to make progress in the integration of baseball in 1943, when the Los Angeles Angels, then playing in the Pacific Coast League, offered to give three African Americans tryouts. The three potential players were Chet Brewer, Howard Easterling and Nate Moreland. After the Angels pulled back on their potential tryout for Brewer another Pacific Coast League team, the Oakland Oaks, offered him a tryout only to later rescind the offer.66

This must have been tough for players hoping to break the color barrier and to prove that they were good enough to play with the White Major and Minor Leaguers. Though there was still much segregation throughout the country, the fact that two Pacific Coast League teams offered potential tryouts to African American players likely was seen by those players as a sign that integration at least at the Minor League level was possible and that progress towards that goal was being made.

Another sign of progress towards integration in 1943 was when Bill Veeck attempted to buy the Philadelphia Phillies. The Phillies, then one of the bottom feeders of Major League Baseball, were up for sale at that time. Veeck’s plan was to buy the Phillies and then to fill the team’s roster solely with Negro Leaguers, something way ahead of its time. Commissioner Landis found out about Veeck’s plan with the Phillies, and then with the help of National League president Ford Frick orchestrated the sale of the team to another buyer, William B. Cox.67

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67 McNary, 38.
All of the events in 1943 can be seen as slow progress towards integration. The thought of African American baseball players being able to compete in the show began to spread. With the likes of seasoned baseball men like Veeck believing that African Americans were good enough to play in the Majors, it appeared that the only real barrier in the way of integration was Commissioner Landis.

1944 was even more important than the previous year towards the color barrier being broken. Two major events happened that year getting the hopes up for many African Americans that someday they could play in the Major’s. First, World War II was in full effect. With many Major and Minor League teams’ rosters being depleted with players fighting for America, some owners looked at the possibility of African Americans to help fill rosters. The war also was important since many Americans realized that African Americans were fighting for our country and freedom just like and along with the White soldiers but had to be segregated at home with baseball.

Historian Charles Silberman talked about the how important WW II was for Negro League players. Silberman claimed that WW II was the, “Turning point in American race relations, in which the seeds of the protest movements of the 1950s and 1960s were sown.”68

World War II was very important in the road to ending segregation in America. With many Americans seeing how African Americans were fighting for the same freedom side-by-side with their fellow countrymen regardless of skin color.

Add the fact that the War depleted many Major and Minor League rosters with many players getting drafted into the military, it appeared that African Americans would soon get their chance to play in an integrated Major Leagues. With the opportunity of integrated baseball immediately following, WWII helped lay the groundwork for the color barrier of baseball being broken.

The second event in 1944 that helped push towards integration was the death of Commissioner Landis. Landis was the head of Major League Baseball from 1920 to 1944, and was the first commissioner for the sport following the Black Sox scandal in 1919. He had been an avid segregationist, but often stated that there was no rule in place preventing African Americans, claiming that it was up to the owners knowing that the owners were going to follow his beliefs. Landis stated, “There is no rule, formal or informal, or any understanding- unwritten subterranean, or sub- anything- against the hiring of Negro players by the teams of organized baseball.”

When people in MLB began to talk about how Black players were good enough to play in the Majors but Landis was the obstacle in the way of integration, Landis responded, “Negroes are not barred from organizational baseball...and never have been in the 21 years I have served.” The irony of this quote was that following it later in the 1942 baseball season Landis “issued an edict ending interracial competition during the winter off-season.”

70 Hogan & Tygiel, 332.
71 Hogan & Tygiel, 332.
72 Hogan & Tygiel, 332.
Perhaps the best (worst for the integration of baseball) example of how Landis kept Major League Baseball segregated was when he denied Bill Veeck in purchasing of the Philadelphia Phillies in 1943. Veeck hoped to purchase the cellar-dwelling Philadelphia Phillies and fill the roster with stars from the Negro Leagues. Veeck stated, “With Satchel Paige, Roy Campanella, Luke Easter, Monte Irvin, and countless others in action and available, I had not the slightest doubt that in 1944, a war year, the Phils would have leaped from seventh place to the pennant.”

Veeck and Phillies President, Jerry Nugent, appeared ready and willing to go through with the sale of the team. Veeck then stated, “I made one bad mistake. Out of long respect for Judge Landis, I felt he was entitled to prior notification of what I intended to do…Judge Landis wasn’t exactly shocked but he wasn’t exactly overjoyed either. His first reaction, in fact, was that I was kidding him.”

The sale of the Phillies then ended up going to William Cox for less than what Veeck had offered. This effort by Landis to stop Veeck from purchasing the Phillies was a prime example of how Commissioner Judge Landis kept baseball segregated during his tenure.

Once Landis had passed, owners now began to believe that integration was near with the biggest obstacle being out of the way.

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73 9 innings, [http://baseballreader.tripod.com/id33.htm](http://baseballreader.tripod.com/id33.htm).
75 Peterson, 180.
Perhaps the most important proponent for integration was Branch Rickey, President of the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1945, Rickey invited Pitcher Terris McDuffie and first baseman “Showboat” Thomas for tryouts. Neither of the players would end up making the squad though, as both players were past their baseball prime.\footnote{McNary, 38.}

This move by Rickey was very important for integration in that a Major League team allowed African Americans to try out, which put pressure on other teams to follow suit. Though both players were beyond their glory years as ballplayers, African Americans now knew that some teams would give them legitimate shots to make the team.

Rickey finally breached the color line in October 1945 when, with the support of new MLB Commissioner Albert Benjamin “Happy” Chandler, Sr., he signed the African American player Jackie Robinson, intending him to play for the Dodgers. Chandler later wrote in his biography that although he risked losing his job as commissioner, he could not in good conscience tell Blacks they couldn’t play with Whites when they’d just fought alongside them in World War II.\footnote{McNary, 41}

After a year in the minor leagues with the Dodgers’ top Minor League affiliate, the Montreal Royals of the International League, Robinson was called up to the Dodgers in 1947, which marked the official integration of Major League baseball. He endured epithets and death threats and got off to a slow start. However, his athleticism and skill earned him the first ever Rookie of the Year award, which is now named in his honor.\footnote{McNary 42-43.}
Less well known was Larry Doby, who signed with Bill Veeck’s Cleveland Indians that same year to become the American League’s first African-American player. Doby, a more low-key figure than Robinson, suffered many of the same indignities that Robinson did, albeit with less press coverage. Both men were ultimately elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame on the merits of their play.\textsuperscript{79}

With the introduction and success of Robinson and Doby, it appeared that teams had become more open to African American players crossing the color barrier, but there were still owners and teams strongly against this. The Boston Red Sox and Braves refused to give African Americans tryouts in 1945, leading to a nightmare with the media. Eventually the Red Sox gave in to the pressure and gave tryouts to Jackie Robinson, Sam Jethroe and Marvin Williams. All three players went on to success in the Majors and Minors, but none of them made it with the Red Sox.\textsuperscript{80}

With some owners being in favor of Black baseball players on their roster, it is hard to believe that it wasn’t until 1945 that the first Black ballplayer was signed. Hogan and Tygiel stated in \textit{Shadows of Glory}, “But some owners feared losing white fans if they accepted black players, largely because they thought that large black crowds at their games would scare away white patrons.”\textsuperscript{81}

The African American media played a vital role in the integration of baseball as well. With many Black newspapers covering the Negro Leagues, there was a strong following and understanding of the players of the Negro Leagues.

Publications such as the \textit{Pittsburgh Courier, Afro-American} in the Washington DC

\textsuperscript{79} McNary, 44.  
\textsuperscript{80} McNary, 38-39.  
\textsuperscript{81} Hogan & Tygiel, 332.
metropolitan area, and *The Call* in Kansas City had some of the best Black baseball columnists covering these baseball hotbeds. These writers often put pressure on Major League Baseball, calling for integration.

Wendell Smith, who wrote for *Pittsburgh Courier*, and Afro-American writer Sam Lacy were two that led the way in the call for integration. Smith faced many of the struggles that the Negro League players faced, with discrimination coming in the way of him becoming a professional ballplayer.82

An example of the advocacy that Black newspapers made for integration was in 1942 when the *Pittsburgh Courier* had the Pittsburgh Pirates give tryouts to African American Players. Four Negro League players were promised a tryout with the Pirates following a poll in the newspaper. William E. Benswanger, Pirates Owner, then backed out on the promised tryout, angering the African American press.83

Lacy became the first Black sportswriter to become a member of the Baseball Writers Association of America due to his coverage of Jackie Robinson. Covering Robinson, Lacy called the “story of a lifetime.” Lacy gave Robinson a great deal of coverage early in his baseball career, leading to Robinson giving credit to Lacy and other African American sports writers to making his Major League career possible.84

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82 Snyder, 187.
83 Snyder, 192.
84 Snyder, 197, 203-204.
Chapter 6: Conclusion

African Americans faced a tough road to the eventual integration of Major League Baseball. Though African Americans once played in the Majors for a brief period following the Civil War\textsuperscript{85}, the Major Leagues became segregated from 1883 until Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 and appearing in his first major league game on April 15, 1947\textsuperscript{86}.

The Negro National League and Negro American League gave the once disorganized Negro Leagues a sense of organization. The NNL was formed in 1920, lasting originally through 1931, failing due to the poor economy in the depression. A new NNL was formed in 1933 lasting until 1948, which played alongside the NAL with the winner of each league playing in the Negro League World Series. The NAL was formed in 1937, lasting until 1960, the last year of organized Black baseball\textsuperscript{87}\textsuperscript{88}.

In the Negro Leagues, African Americans played a full season similar to that of the Major Leagues. During the off-season, many Negro League teams, like their White counterparts, would then barnstorm against other professional and semi-professional teams to make extra money. During the barnstorming tours, Negro


League teams would face White Major League players who would create all-star teams.

Often, the Negro League teams would defeat the White all-star squads, leading to those who followed and saw the Negro Leagues to believe that many African Americans could not only play in the Major Leagues, but succeed as well. Knowing that they were good enough to compete and beat many Major League stars, it must have been difficult for Negro League players who couldn’t get the chance to play in the Majors.

The main factors keeping Major League Baseball segregated were that Judge Landis was Commissioner and that many of the owners were not bold enough to sign African American players. Judge Landis was known as a segregationist, with no Black players playing in the Major or Minor Leagues during his tenure from 1920 to 1944. Although there was no actual rule against African Americans playing in the Majors, Landis and many of the owners had a gentlemen’s agreement making sure that baseball remained segregated.

The segregation of baseball began coming to an end during the eventful year of 1944. During this year, Commissioner Landis died and World War II reached its greatest intensity. The death of Landis effectively ended his gentlemen’s agreement with the owners to keep baseball segregated. The ending of segregation was nearing also because the public saw how African Americans were fighting in WWII to maintain our freedoms. With a new Commissioner running baseball and the

89 Bruce, 33, 60-61.
90 Hogan & Tygiel, 374.
91 9 Innings, http://baseballreader.tripod.com/Id33.htm
American public noticing African Americans fighting for our freedom on the battlefields, baseball was soon to be integrated.

Branch Rickey, President of the Brooklyn Dodgers signed Jackie Robinson in 1945, which was the biggest step towards the reality of having the first Black Major Leaguer since the 1800’s. Two years later, on April 15, 1947, Robinson appeared in his first Major League game, leading the way for many African Americans to play professionally in the future.92

Though Robinson and Rickey played a vital role in the crossing of the color barrier in baseball, it was not as if the floodgates had opened for African American baseball players to play in the Major and Minor Leagues. Many Americans think that MLB’s integration was accomplished with Robinson’s rookie season in 1947 but it took until the middle of the 1959 season, more than 12 years It wasn’t until the middle of the 1959, more than 12 seasons after Robinson played his rookie season, when the Boston Red Sox became the last Major League team to integrate. By the time that the Red Sox integrated, Robinson had already retired from baseball.93

This thesis has reviewed the factors that led to the racial integration of MLB, how the best players migrated from the Negro Leagues to the Major Leagues between 1947 and 1959, and how the loss of that great talent and the understandable increased interest in MLB by the Black baseball fans led to the demise of the Negro Leagues. In particular, I reviewed three of the best Negro

92 McNary, 41.
League Teams and the role they played in developing that talent and the impact on those teams of MLB’s integration.

The road to a fully integrated Major League Baseball was a long and tough one for African Americans. Forced to play in the Negro Leagues often for lower salaries than those enjoyed by White Major Leaguers, Black baseball players had to face a great deal of racism including not being able to stay at certain hotels on away trips. In the end however after years of perseverance, African American players were finally allowed to play in the Major Leagues, leaving behind a great legacy and history of the Negro Leagues that will never be forgotten.
Appendix I

1. **Henry Louis Aaron** - Indianapolis Clowns (1952), Minor Leagues ('52-'53), Major Leagues ('54-'76)
2. **Jose Acosta** - Long Branch Cubans (1915), Minor Leagues (1916), Major Leagues ('20-'22)
5. **Daniel Robert Bankhead** - Chicago American Giants (1940), Birmingham Black Barons ('40-'42), Military Service ('43-'45), Memphis Red Sox ('46-'47), Minor Leagues ('47-'49, '51-'52), Major Leagues ('47, '50-'51), Canadian League (1953), Mexican League ('54-'65)
6. **Ernest Banks** - Kansas City Monarchs ('50-'53), Military Service ('51-'52), Major Leagues ('53-'71)
7. **Frank Barnes** - Kansas City Monarchs ('49-'50), Minor Leagues ('50-'52, '54-'62, '65), Major Leagues ('57-'58, '60), Mexican League ('63-'67)
8. **Joseph Black** - Baltimore Elite Giants ('43-'50), Military Service ('43-'45), Minor Leagues ('51, '54, '57), Major Leagues ('52-'57)
10. **Willard Jesse Brown** - Monroe Monarchs (1934), Kansas City Monarchs ('35-'43, '46-'51), Mexican League (1940), Military Service ('44-'45), Major Leagues (1947), Minor Leagues ('50, '53-'56)
11. **Joseph Clifford Caffie** - Cleveland Buckeyes (1950), Minor Leagues ('51-'61), Major Leagues ('57-'58)
12. **Roy Campanella** - Baltimore Elite Giants ('37-'42), Mexican League (1943, Minor Leagues ('46-'48), Major Leagues ('48-'57)
13. **Vibert Ernesto Clarke** - Cleveland Buckeyes ('46-'48), Louisville Buckeyes (1949), Memphis Red Sox ('50-'53), Minor Leagues ('55-'57), Major Leagues ('55)
14. **James Buster Clarkson** - Pittsburgh Crawfords ('37-'38), Toledo Crawfords (1939), Indianapolis Crawfords (1940), Newark Eagles ('40, '42), Mexican League ('41, '43-'45), Philadelphia Stars ('42, '46, '49-'50), Baltimore Elite Giants, Military Service ('43-'45), Canadian League (1948), Minor Leagues ('50-'56), Major Leagues (1952)
15. **George Crowe** - New York Black Yankees ('47-'49), New York Cubans ('48-'49), Minor Leagues ('49-'52, '61), Major Leagues ('52-'60)

17. **Lino Galata Donoso** - New York Cubans ('47-'49), Mexican League ('50-'53, '56, '58-'62), Minor Leagues ('54-'57), Major Leagues ('55-'56)

18. **Luscious Easter** - Cincinnati Crescents (1946), Homestead Grays ('47-'48), Minor Leagues ('49, '54-'64), Major Leagues ('49-'54)

19. **James William Gilliam** - Nashville Black Vols (1945), Baltimore Elite Giants ('46-'51), Minor Leagues ('51-'52), Major Leagues ('53-'66)

20. **William Greason** - Nashville Black Vols (1949), Ashville Blues (1948), Birmingham Black Barons ('48-'51), Mexican League ('51-'52), Minor Leagues ('53-'58), Major Leagues ('54)

21. **Sam Hairston** - Birmingham Black Barons (1944), Cincinnati-Indianapolis Clowns (1945), Indianapolis Clowns ('45-'50), Major Leagues (1951), Minor Leagues ('50-'60)

22. **Charles Byron Harmon** - Indianapolis Clowns (1947), Minor Leagues ('47, '49-'54, '56-'61), Major Leagues ('54-'57)

23. **Jehosie Heard** - Birmingham Black Barons ('45-'49), Houston Eagles ('49-'50), New Orleans Eagles (1951), Minor Leagues ('52-'57), Major Leagues (1954), Memphis Red Sox (1958)

24. **Ramon Herrera** - Jersey City Cubans (1916), Long Branch Cubans (1916), Cuban Stars West ('20-'21), Major Leagues ('25-'26)

25. **David Taylor Hoskins** - Indianapolis Clowns (1942), Chicago American Giants (1943), Homestead Grays ('44-'47), Minor Leagues ('48, '50-'52, '55-'60), Louisville Buckeyes (1949), Major Leagues ('53-'54), Mexican League (1960)

26. **Elston Howard** - Kansas City Monarchs ('48-'50), Minor Leagues ('50-'53), Military Service ('51-'52), Major Leagues ('55-'68)

27. **Monford Merrill Irvin** - Newark Eagles ('37-'42, '45-'48), Military Service ('43-'45), Mexican League (1942), Minor Leagues ('49-'50, '57), Major Leagues ('49-'56)

28. **Samuel Jethroe** - Indianapolis Clowns (1938), Cincinnati Buckeyes (1942), Cleveland Buckeyes ('43-'48), Minor Leagues ('48-'49, '53-'58), Major Leagues ('50-'52, '54)

29. **Clifford Johnson, Jr.** - Indianapolis Crawfords (1940), Kansas City Monarchs ('41-'42, '46-'50), Military Service ('43-'45), Canadian League (1951), Minor Leagues ('52-'54, '59-'60), Major Leagues ('53, '55-'58), Mexican League (1961)

30. **Samuel Jones** - Homestead Grays (1946), Cleveland Buckeyes ('47-'48), Minor Leagues ('50-'55), Major Leagues ('51-'52, '55-'64)
31. **Adolfo Luque** - Cuban Stars (1912), Long Branch Cubans (1913), Major Leagues (’14-’15, ’18-’35)
32. **Luis Angel Marquez** - New York Black Yankees (1945), Baltimore Elite Giants (1946), Homestead Grays (’46-’48), Minor Leagues (’49-’61), Major Leagues (’51, ’54), Mexican League (’62-’63)
33. **Willie Howard Mays, Jr.** - Birmingham Black Barons (’48-’50), Minor Leagues (’50-’51), Major Leagues (’51-’52, ’54-’73), Military Service (’52-’53)
34. **Minnie Minoso** - New York Cubans (’45-’48), Minor Leagues (’48-’50, ’64), Major Leagues (’49, ’51-’64, ’76, ’80), Mexican League (’65-’73)
35. **Donald Newcombe** - Newark Eagles (’44-’45), Minor Leagues (’46-’49, ’61), Major Leagues (’49-’51, ’54-’60), Military Service (’52-’53), Japanese League (1962)
36. **Rafael Miguel Noble** - New York Cubans (’45-’50), Minor Leagues (’49-’50, ’52-’61), Major Leagues (’51-’53)
39. **Charles Peete** - Indianapolis Clowns (1950), Minor Leagues (’51-’52), Military Service (1952), Major Leagues (1956)
41. **David Pope** - Homestead Grays (1946), Canadian League (’48-’49), Minor Leagues (’50-’53, ’56-’61), Major Leagues (’52, ’54-’56)
42. **Curtis Benjamin Roberts** - Kansas City Monarchs (’47-’50), Minor Leagues (’51-’53, ’55-’63), Major Leagues (’54-’56)
43. **Jack Roosevelt Robinson** - Kansas City Monarchs (1945), Minor Leagues (1946), Major Leagues (’47-’56)
44. **Antonio Hector Rodriguez** - New York Cubans (’39, ’44), Mexican League (’45-’46, ’62-’63), Minor Leagues (’48-’51, ’53-’61), Major Leagues (1952)
45. **Patricio Athelstan Scantlebury** - New York Cubans (’44-’50), Minor Leagues (’53-’61), Major Leagues (1956)
46. **Harry Leon Simpson** - Philadelphia Stars ('46-'48), Minor Leagues ('49-'50, '54, '60-'63), Major Leagues ('51-'53, '55-'59), Mexican League ('63-'64)  
47. **Alphonse Eugene Smith** - Buckeyes ('46-'48), Minor Leagues ('50-'52), Major Leagues ('53-'64)  
48. **Milton Smith** - Philadelphia Stars ('49-'51), Minor Leagues ('52-'61), Major Leagues ('55)  
49. **Joseph Cephus Taylor** - Chicago American Giants ('49-'50), Minor Leagues ('50-'52), Major Leagues ('54, '57-'59), Mexican League ('63)  
50. **Henry Curtis Thompson** - Kansas City Monarchs ('43, '45-'48), Military Service ('44-'45), Mexican League (1945), Major Leagues ('47-'49, '56), Minor Leagues ('49, '51, '57)  
51. **Robert Burns Thurman** - Military Service ('42-'45), Homestead Grays ('46-'48), Kansas City Monarchs (1949), Minor Leagues ('49-'52, '57, '59-'61), Major Leagues ('55-'59)  
52. **Robert Lee Trice** - Homestead Grays ('48-'50), Canadian League ('50-'52), Minor Leagues ('52-'55), Major Leagues ('53-'55), Mexican League ('56-'58)  
53. **Quincy Thomas Trouppe** - St. Louis Stars ('30-'31, '39), Detroit Wolves (1932), Homestead Grays (1932), Kansas City Monarchs ('32, '34-'36), Chicago American Giants ('33, '48), Bismarck, ND Cubs ('33-'36), Indianapolis ABC's ('38-'39), Mexican League ('39-'44, '50-'51), Cleveland Buckeyes ('44-'47), New York Cubans (1949), Canadian League (1949), Major Leagues (1952)  
54. **Roberto Enrique Vargas** - Chicago American Giants (1948), Minor Leagues ('51-'54, '56-'59), Dominican League (1953), Major Leagues (1955), Mexican League ('59-'61)  
55. **Moses Fleetwood Walker** - Minor Leagues ('83, '85-'89), Major Leagues (1884)  
56. **Welday Wiberforce Walker** - Major Leagues (1884), Minor Leagues ('85-'87)  
57. **Charles White Jr** - Philadelphia Stars (1950), Minor Leagues ('51-'53, '55-'63, '65), Major Leagues ('54-'55)  
58. **Arthur Lee Wilson** - Birmingham Black Barons ('44-'48), Minor Leagues ('49-'57, '62), Major Leagues (1951)  
59. **Robert Wilson** - Newark Eagles ('47-'48), Houston Eagles ('49-'50), Minor Leagues ('51-'60), Major Leagues (1958)  

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Reilly.
Appendix II:

This is a timeline of major world events going on while the MLB teams became racially integrated. The timeline indicates how long the process was for all of the teams in the Major Leagues to become fully integrated.

1947
Apr 15 The Brooklyn Dodgers integrate with Jackie Robinson.
Jul 5 The Cleveland Indians integrate with Larry Doby.
Jul 17 & 19 The St. Louis Browns integrate with Hank Thompson and Willard Brown.
Aug 15 India gains independence from British.
Oct 6 First World Series on television.

1948
Jan 30 Ghandi assassinated.
May 14 Modern Israel founded.
Jun 24 Soviets cut off Berlin, West replies with airlift.

1949
Jul 8 The New York Giants integrate with Hank Thompson and Monte Irvin.
Oct 1 Mao Tse-Tung founds People's Republic of China after defeating Nationalists.

1950
Apr 18 The Boston Braves integrate with Sam Jethroe.
Jun 25 North Korea invades South Korea.

1951
Feb 27 22nd Amendment is ratified - Presidents are limited to two terms.
May 1 The Chicago White Sox integrate with Minnie Minoso.

1952
Nov 4 Eisenhower elected President.

1953
Mar 5 Joseph Stalin dies.
Jul 27 Korean War ends.
Sep 13 The Philadelphia Athletics integrate with Bob Trice.
Sep 17  The Chicago Cubs integrate with Ernie Banks.

1954
Apr 13  The Pittsburgh Pirates integrate with Curt Roberts.
Apr 13  The St. Louis Cardinals integrate with Tom Alston.
Apr 17  The Cincinnati Reds integrate with Nino Escalera.
May 17  Supreme Court strikes down "Separate but Equal" with Brown vs. Board of Education.
Sep 6   The Washington Senators integrate with Carlos Paula.

1955
Apr 14  The New York Yankees integrate with Elston Howard.
Jul 18  Disneyland opens.
Dec 1   Rosa Parks arrested for not giving up her seat on a bus.

1956
Sep 9   Elvis appears on the Ed Sullivan show.
Nov 6   Eisenhower elected to second term.

1957
Apr 22  The Philadelphia Phillies integrate with John Kennedy.
Sep 24  Little Rock Central High School becomes integrated with help of National Guard.
Oct 4   Soviets launch Sputnik.
Oct 7   Dodgers announce that they will move to Los Angeles for the following season.

1958
Jan 31  Explorer I, first US satellite, launched.
Jun 6   The Detroit Tigers integrate with Ozzie Virgil.

1959
Jan 1   Fidel Castro overthrows Batista.
Jan 3   Statehood for Alaska.
Feb 3   Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper die in plane crash.
Jul 21  The Boston Red Sox integrate with Elijah Pumpsie Green.95

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