

# **A Schott From The Bleachers**

**Charles Mason**

***First New Orleanian to Play Big League Ball***

by  
**Arthur O. Schott**

Listed on the roster of major league players is one Charles E. Mason. He appeared in a total of 21 games, hitting .183, with 15 hits in 82 times at bat. His career began in the old National Association (a predecessor of the National League) on April 26, 1875, with the Centennials of Philadelphia. After twelve games there, Mason went to the Washington club in the same league for eight games.

Mason's career ended in 1883 when "base ball" was still being written as two words. He appeared in the old American Association major league. He made one hit in two times at bat (a .500 average for his short career there).

Why is this seemingly insignificant performance so long ago worthy of mention? Charles Mason was born on June 25, 1853 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and died October 21, 1936 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. That fact, coupled with his short major league career, entitles him to a record that can never be equaled: he was the first New Orleans native to play in a league of major classification.

The accompanying box score is that of Charles Mason's first game, when the New Orleans native played right field for the Centennials and contributed two hits in four times at bat.

## At Philadelphia, April 26, 1875

<b>CENTENNIAL</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>PO</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>
George Bechtel, p	5	2	1	0	1	2
Bill Craver, ss	5	0	2	1	6	3
George Tranwith, 3b	5	0	2	0	3	3
Fred Treacy, lf	5	1	1	2	0	0
Fred Warner, cf	5	0	0	0	1	0
Ed Somerville, 2b	5	2	1	8	2	1
Tim McGinley, c	5	0	2	2	1	4
John Abadie, 1b	4	0	0	11	1	2
Charlie Mason, rf	4	2	2	3	0	1
Totals	43	7	11	27	15	16

<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>PO</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>E</b>
John McMullin, lf	5	0	0	4	0	2
Mike McGeary, 2b	5	2	2	4	1	3
Bob Abby, rf	5	1	1	0	1	0
Levy Meyerie, 3b	5	2	2	0	1	3
West Fisher, p	5	1	1	1	1	1
Bill Crowley, 1b	4	0	1	5	0	0
Chick Fulmer, ss	5	0	1	1	2	2
Tim Harman, cf	5	2	0	0	0	0
Pop Snyder, c	4	2	0	12	3	2
Totals	43	10	8	27	9	13

										<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>LOB</b>	
Centennial . . . . .	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	-	7	11	16	9
Philadelphia . . . . .	0	1	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	-	10	8	13	5

Total bases on hits – Centennial 14, Philadelphia 8

Umpire – John Clapp

Time – 1:50

You may notice that the winning home Philadelphia team batted in the bottom of the ninth, even though leading 10 – 7. The National Association played a total of 345 games in 1875 and hit a total of 40 home runs for the season – vastly different from today's home run output.

*Note: Thanks to my fellow SABR members, Bob Richardson, Joe Ditmar and Bob Tieman for supplying me with data to complete and present the box score above.*

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