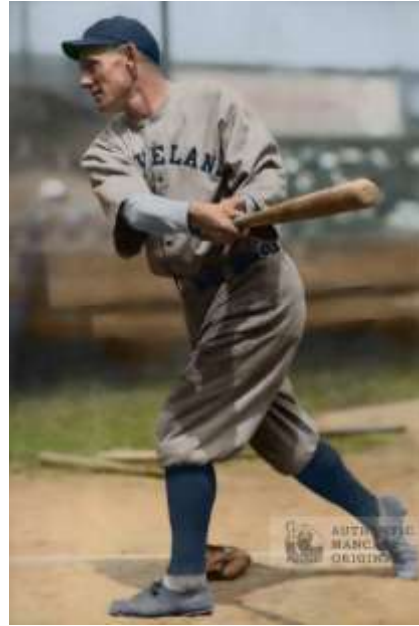


Raymond Johnson Chapman (1891-1920)

By Jerry Long



Ray Chapman

Raymond Johnson Chapman was born 15 January 1891 McHenry, Ohio County, KY and died 17 August 1920 Manhattan, NY. He was a professional baseball player. A shortstop for the Cleveland Indians, Major League team (1912-1920). He was the only modern day ball player to have died as the direct result of being hit by a pitch. On August 16th, 1920, at the Polo Grounds, Chapman was struck in the temple by a pitch from Yankee Carl Mays. He collapsed on the field and was rushed to the hospital. Despite emergency surgery he died the next day, never regaining consciousness. Chapman led the Indians in stolen bases four times, setting a team record with 52 in 1917 that stood until 1980. He led the AL in runs scored and walks in 1918. He was hitting .303 with 97 runs scored when he died. It was because of his death that spitballs were declared illegal. The Cleveland Indians went on to win the World Series that year wearing black armbands in honor of their teammate.

Ray Chapman was the son of Robert Everett Chapman (1860-1952) and Blanche Johnson (1867-after 1952). He is listed with his parents in the 1900 census of Ohio County, KY, where his father was working in the coal mines near McHenry. About 1905 the family moved to Herrin, Williamson County, IL. In the 1910 federal census of Herrin Raymond is listed in his parents' home and was reported to be employed as a salesman at a shoe store. In the Owensboro, KY newspapers there were frequent notices of Ray visiting his relatives in Owensboro. His mother's

parents, Thomas L. Johnson (1834-1903) & Margaret A. Murray (1836-1911), lived in Owensboro and are buried in Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery. Ray's uncles, Jesse, James, Allen & Clarence Johnson and aunts, Corilla Johnson Terrell & Lou Johnson Augenstein lived in Owensboro. Ray was a first cousin of Owensboro's famous circus owner, Zack Terrell. In Cleveland, Ohio 29 October 1919 Ray married Kathleen Marie Daly. His best man was Tris Speaker, a fellow teammate on the Cleveland Indians, many consider Speaker to be one of the greatest players in the history of Major League Baseball. Ray Chapman was buried the Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio. He and Kathleen had one child, Rae Marie (1921-1929).



Ray Chapman





Ray Chapman in front



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 13 August 1989, p1C:

Ohio Countian's death a tragic stat

By Mathew Graf, Messenger-Inquirer



If Ray Chapman played today, his batting average would be among the league leaders. Two Kentuckians would likely not be the answer to one of baseball's most tragic trivia questions. And Chapman probably would not have been killed at home plate.

Chapman, a native of McHenry in Ohio County who made his winter home in Owensboro, carried a hefty .303 average into New York's Polo Grounds Aug. 16, 1920, for a game against the

Yankees. His Cleveland Indians sat atop the American League and would go on to win the 1920 World Series over the Brooklyn Robins.

But Chapman wasn't around to enjoy the Series. The last pitch he ever saw was Carl Mays' first throw of the fifth inning.

Chapman leaned toward the plate in his usual crouching position, according to old newspaper accounts. Mays, whose sidwinding, underhand delivery earned him the nickname "Sub," came with a fastball.

The crowd of better than 22,000 at the Polo Grounds heard a loud crack and watched as Mays fielded the ball and threw to first baseman Wally Pipp to retire Chapman. Those not watching Mays saw Chapman collapse into catcher Muddy Ruel's arms at home plate.

Doctors were summoned from the grandstand to discover the crack they'd heard was not the ball hitting Chapman's bat.

A fastball meeting a baseball player's head is dangerous even today. But at a time when batting helmets were not yet in use, such a hit could be fatal. For Chapman, Mays' pitch was.

The pitch fractured the left side of Chapman's skull. Chapman was revived momentarily and began a slow walk to the clubhouse aided by two teammates, only to collapse again seconds later. Late that night, an operation was performed during which a small portion of Chapman's skull was removed. He died at 4:50 a.m., Aug. 17.

Chapman, 29 when he died, is the only player to be fatally injured in a major-league baseball game.

Some baseball experts may remember Chapman's link to the bean ball, but few Kentuckians probably realize Chapman's Ohio County ties, or that the pitcher, Mays, was a native of Liberty.

Those who knew Chapman "are all dead and gone," said Noel Phelps Jr., a McHenry historian. "My father would be 91 if he was living, and he had some friends in town who knew (Chapman), but he didn't know him.

"Some people have heard of him, but only through what they've read, like me."

Others in the area recognize the name, but not the distinction.

The days following Chapman's death turned to investigating the accident. Mays, an accused baseball scuffer, drew the wrath of fellow players and umpires when he said the ball that killed Chapman should not have been allowed in the game because it had a rough spot.

"No pitcher in the American League resorted to trickery more than Carl Mays in attempting to rough a ball in order to get a break on it which would make it more difficult to hit," a statement from umpires William Evans and William Dineen said.

Players from Boston and Detroit signed a petition calling for Mays' banishment from baseball, saying they would not go to bat against him again.

Still, Mays, who appeared before a district attorney and was cleared of criminal charges, insisted there was no intent involved in the beaming.

"It was a straight fastball. It was not a curved one," Mays' statement said. "When Chapman came to the bat, I got the signal for a straight fastball, which I delivered. It was a little too close and I saw Chapman duck his head. It was too late, however, and a second later he fell to the ground. It is the most regrettable incident in my career." The assault on Mays lessened when Cleveland manager Tris Speaker said he did not hold Mays responsible for Chapman's death, and Philadelphia Athletics skipper Connie Mack called for sympathy for Mays. Cleveland pitcher Ray Caldwell said it looked to him as if Chapman had turned his head right into the ball. Ruel, the catcher who caught the collapsed Chapman, said later that the pitch could have been a strike.

As that controversy was being settled, Chapman's legend emerged. The newspapers said Chapman's eagerness to help give Cleveland its first pennant indirectly killed him.

Chapman married 10 months before his death and considered retiring from baseball to devote time to business.

"I'll play next year, for I want to help Tris Speaker and the Cleveland fans land the first pennant Cleveland has ever had," Chapman said at the time. "Then I will talk about quitting." The day after Chapman's death, The New York Times reported headgear for batters was being considered by major-league owners.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 May 1992, p30:

McHenry man was only player killed in major league baseball game

By Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer

Ray Chapman was at the top of his game as he stepped to home plate in the fifth inning that Monday afternoon of Aug. 16, 1920. The Ohio County native was hitting .303 and his Cleveland Indians were in first place.

He leaned over the plate in his usual crouching stance and took two pitches from Carl Mays. The New York Yankee righthander then delivered the third pitch, a fastball, and Chapman's career ended.

The crowd of 22,000 at the Polo Grounds in New York heard a loud crack and watched as Mays fielded the ball and threw to first baseman Wally Pipp to retire Chapman. Those not watching Mays saw Chapman collapse into catcher Muddy Ruel's arms at the plate.

A doctor was summoned from the grandstand when it was realized the crack that had been heard was not from the ball hitting Chapman's bat.

The pitch had fractured the left side of Chapman's skull, and, by the next morning, he became the only player to be fatally injured in a major league game.

After the pitch, Chapman was revived momentarily and began a slow walk to the clubhouse with the help of two teammates, only to collapse again seconds later.

As he was being taken to the hospital, he told his friend John Henry, "I'm all right. Tell Mays not to worry."

Late that night, an operation was performed to remove a small portion of Chapman's skull, and he died at 4:50 a.m. Aug. 17.

At the time of the accident, Chapman, 29, ranked as the American League's leading shortstop. He had hit over .300 in three of the last four seasons, was a clever hit-and-run specialist and had astonishing speed. In a 1917 charity game, he had circled the bases in 14 seconds. He was among the league leaders in stolen bases, and, in the field, had the best range in the league.

An investigation began in the days following Chapman's death. Mays drew criticism from fellow players and umpires when he said the ball that killed Chapman should not have been allowed in the game because it had a rough spot on it. He said the scuffing probably caused Chapman's death because it had made the ball "sail" into the batter.

Mays, himself a Kentuckian from Liberty, appeared before a district attorney and was cleared of any criminal charges. He insisted that he was not trying to hit Chapman.

"It was a straight fastball, not a curved one," he said. "When Chapman came to the bat, I got the signal for a straight fastball which I delivered. It was a little too close and I saw Chapman duck his head. It was too late, however, and a second later he fell to the ground. It is the most regrettable incident in my career."

On the day after Chapman's death, the New York Times reported headgear for batters was being considered by major league owners. But it would be much later before it would be required.

More importantly, the leagues mandated that discolored or bruised baseballs be thrown out of play frequently to make conditions safer for batters.

After the controversy, the legend of Chapman began to emerge. He was born Jan. 15, 1891, in McHenry, the son of Everett Chapman and grandson of Mrs. Ellis Chapman of Beaver Dam. When Ray was 14, his family moved to Herrin, 111., where his father worked in the coal mines. It was there that young Chapman and Bobby Veach, an Island native and future Detroit Tiger outfielder, began their baseball careers together.

Chapman played at Springfield, 111., Davenport, Iowa, and Toledo, Ohio, before going up to the majors. He batted .312 during the last month of the 1912 season and his work at shortstop led the Indians to a second-place finish in 1913. He broke his leg sliding into third base during spring training in 1914 and missed nearly half the season. He dislocated a knee in 1916 and was out for 50 games, but regained his health to have his best seasons ever, hitting .302 in 1917 and .300 in 1919. He finished his nine years of major league ball with a .278 lifetime batting average. Chapman was married 10 months before his death and was planning to retire after the 1920 season and go into business. "I'll play next year, for I want to help Tris Speaker and the Cleveland fans to land the first pennant Cleveland has ever had," Chapman said at the time. "Then I will talk about quitting."



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 21 September 2004, p63E:

BASEBALL
Chapman only Major Leaguer killed in game

Thousands of Major League Baseball games have been played. Millions of pitches have been thrown. It's a rare game when at least one batter isn't hit by a pitch.

But only once in Major League history has a player been fatally injured in a game. That player was McHenry native Ray Chapman.

On that tragic day, Aug. 16, 1920, Chapman's Cleveland Indians were atop the American League standings and would go on to win the 1920 World Series. Chapman, who made his winter home in Owensboro, carried a hefty .303 average into New York's Polo Grounds for a game against the New York Yankees.

Chapman, considered one of the very best shortstops in the league, came up in the fifth inning against Carl Mays. Old newspaper reports said he leaned over the plate in his usual crouching position for the first pitch from the sidewinding Mays, who had earned the nickname "Sub."

It was a fastball. A loud crack was heard by the 22,000 fans, who say Mays fielded the ball and threw to first baseman Wally Pipp. But the crack was not from the ball hitting Chapman's bat.

Chapman had been hit in the left side of his head. Back then there was no such thing as a batting helmet. His skull was fractured. He collapsed into catcher Muddy Ruel's arms.

For a moment it looked like Chapman was OK. He was revived by doctors who came down from the stands, and he walked slowly to the clubhouse, aided by two teammates. But he collapsed again seconds later.

Chapman, 29, died at 4:50 a.m. the next day at New York's St. Lawrence Hospital after surgeons removed a small portion of his skull directly above his left ear during a midnight operation.

Mays was also a Kentuckian, hailing from Liberty. Mays, considered a ball scuffer, drew the wrath of players and umpires. Some players in the league signed a petition calling for his banishment from baseball and vowed never to go to bat against him again. But Mays was cleared of criminal charges and insisted he wasn't trying to hit Chapman. It was just a fastball that sailed too close to Chapman, who didn't duck in time, he said.

The enormously popular Chapman, 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds, married 10 months before his death and was considering retiring after the 1921 season.

Born Jan. 15, 1891 in McHenry, Chapman made his Major League debut on Aug. 30, 1912. For his career he hit 17 home runs, knocked in 364 runs and averaged .278 at the plate.

Sadly, Chapman's death wasn't the final tragedy for his family. According to writer Jeff Youngblood's lengthy 2002 Internet article titled "The Baseball Tragedy of 1920,"

(www.indiejournal.com/indiejournal/columns/baseballtragedy.htm)

Chapman's bride was Kathleen "Katie" Daly, who was pregnant with Chapman's child when he died. Rae Marie Chapman was born Feb. 27, 1921.

Kathleen Chapman remarried in 1923 and had a second child. But she lived only five more years. Her death in California in April 1928 was ruled a suicide. Family members believed she never got over Chapman's death.

Rae Marie Chapman went back to Cleveland to be with her grandparents. But the following year she was stricken with measles, a deadly disease back then. She died April 29, 1929, at age 8.

Ray Chapman is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Cleveland.

•••••





Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 March 2007, p6B:

Indians find Chapman plaque

By Tom Withers, Associated Press

CLEVELAND – Tucked away and forgotten for years, a plaque commemorating one of baseball's darkest moments has been brought back to life.

A 175-pound bronzed memorial for Ray Chapman, the Cleveland Indians shortstop killed when he was hit in the head with a pitch in a 1920 game, was recently rediscovered after decades in storage.

Now refurbished, it will be displayed as one of the signature pieces in the new Heritage Park, a walk-through exhibit beyond the center-field wall at Jacobs Field honoring Cleveland's Hall of Famers and the Indians' history.

"It's absolutely beautiful," said Jim Folk, Indians vice president of operations, admiring the once-hidden treasure. "This was a lucky accident."

Chapman, an Ohio County native from McHenry who made his winter home in Owensboro, was one of the Indians' most popular players. "Chappie," as he was known to everyone, was struck in the temple by Carl Mays of the New York Yankees at die Polo Grounds on Aug. 16, 1920. Chapman died from his injury the next morning.

The beaning came before the advent of batting helmets, and the 29-year-old Chapman was hit so hard that Mays, a renowned submariner and spitballer, thought the ball had come off Chapman's bat. He fielded the ball and threw to first.

Mays was also a Kentucky native from Liberty.

"Chapman didn't react at all," said Rod Nelson of the Society of American Baseball Research, who has culled through dozens of newspaper articles on Chapman's death. "It was at twilight, and it froze him."



Plaque at Heritage Park in Progressive Field, Cleveland, Ohio

Not long after Chapman died, the plaque was dedicated and hung at League Park and later at Cleveland Municipal Stadium before being taken down for unknown reasons.

"It was in a storeroom under an escalator in a little nook and cranny," Folk said. "We didn't know what we were going to do with it, but there was no way it was just going to stay there when we moved to Jacobs Field. We had it crated up and put on a moving truck and it came over along with our file cabinets and all the other stuff that came out of the stadium."

The Indians considered hanging it in the Jake, but unable to come up with the perfect spot, the plaque was misplaced. Time passed and Chapman's plaque became a lost piece of history.

"It just kind of got forgotten about to be honest" Folk said.

Six weeks ago, while workers cleaned out a storage room, it was found in horrible condition. The neglected plaque was covered by years of dust and dirt making its text illegible.

"You couldn't read anything on it," said Bob Knazek of Engineered Products Inc., the company in charge of overseeing the Heritage Park memorial. "It was oxidized, dark brown."

The plaque was cleaned, restoring Chapman and his sad story for another generation of fans.

"We're really pleased with it," Knazek said. "It just turned out to be a piece of artwork. It's a great focal point for the ballpark."

In elegant detail, Raymond Johnson Chapman's bust is framed by a baseball diamond and flanked by two bats, one of them cradling a fielder's mitt. At the bottom of the tablet is the inscription, "He Lives In The Hearts Of All Who Knew Him."

After cutting the ceremonial ribbon at Heritage Park, Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Feller was one of many who paused to remember Chapman, the only major leaguer to die from an injury sustained in a game.

"It wasn't the first time he threw at somebody," the 88-year-old Feller said of Mays. "Whether he threw at Chapman, I have no idea."

• • • • •

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 7 June 1912, p8:

**RAY CHAPMAN GOES
WITH CLEVELAND TEAM**

Ray Chapman, the Owensboro boy who has been playing the shortfield position with the Toledo team of the American association, and whose sensational fielding and batting has been the talk of the circuit, is to be traded to Cleveland for Ole Olsen, waivers are given on Olsen by the other seven clubs of the American league. Cleveland has been trying to get Chapman for some time, and the only way it was finally decided was to give Toledo a player who would fill Chapman's shoes. Olsen was picked.

The many Owensboro friends of this young star are delighted to learn of his debut in the major league, and feel confident that he will continue his sensational work with the Cleveland team.

• • • • •

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 18 August 1920 p1:

**BASEBALL WORLD
IS SHOCKED BY
CHAPMAN'S DEATH**

**Cleveland Star Dies Follow-
ing An Operation In New
York Hospital; Pitcher who
Hit Kentuckian, Overcome**

New York, Aug 17. – Thousands of baseball fans paid a final tribute tonight to Ray Chapman, shortstop of the Cleveland American League team, whose death resulted today from a blow received on the head from a ball pitched by Pitcher Carl Mays, in the New York-Cleveland game yesterday.

Chapman's body was placed on a train that will arrive in Cleveland tomorrow morning when the funeral arrangements probably will be made by Mrs. Chapman and friends.

During the day the player's body lay in the undertaker's rooms. It was viewed by hundreds. Tonight the fans formed an aisle at the railroad station, and stood with bowed heads as the coffin was carried through the gates to the train.

Mays, who is deeply grieved over the incident, made a full statement today to Assistant Attorney John Joyce. The pitcher, his eyes filled with tears, said: "It was a straight fast ball. It was not a curved one. When Chapman came to the bat, I got the signal for a straight fast ball, which I delivered. It was a little too close and I saw Chapman duck his head. It was too late, however, and a second later he fell to the ground. It is the most regrettable incident in my career.

Mr. Joyce said he thought Chapman's death purely accidental.

Tris Speaker, manager for Cleveland, said the accident was unavoidable.

In the meantime players on various teams in the league, including Detroit, Washington, Boston, and St. Louis are reported preparing a petition to President Johnson for barring Mays from future playing because of alleged close pitching.

New York, Aug. 17. – Raymond Chapman, short-stop of the Cleveland America baseball team, who was hit on the head by a ball thrown by Pitcher Carl Mays in yesterday's game with the New York American, died in the St. Lawrence hospital at 4:50 o'clock this morning. He never regained consciousness after an operation, which was hurriedly decided on shortly after midnight, when a portion of his fractured skull was removed by surgeons, who hoped against hope that he might recover.

Shortly before it was decided to operate. Manager Tris Speaker, already deeply apprehensive of his condition, telephoned news of the accident to Chapman's wife in Cleveland, who immediately started for New York.

News of his death cast a gloom over the members of both teams and the baseball world in general. Today's game between the two clubs was postponed. Carl Mays was overcome with grief when the news was told to him.

Collapses on Field

The accident occurred at the outset of the fifth inning. Chapman was the first batter up and was hit by the first ball pitched. So terrific was the blow that the report of the impact caused the spectators to think the ball had struck his hat. Mays, who pitched the ball, acting under this impression, fielded the ball that rebounded halfway to the pitcher's box and threw it to first base in order to retire Chapman.

Then it was noticed that Chapman had collapsed at the home plate. He was lifted to his feet by other players, then he stood dazed for a moment, staggered and crumpled up at their feet. Physicians were immediately called from the grandstand and they administered first aid, still not knowing that he had suffered a fractured skull. Two players, with Chapman's arms about their shoulders started to walk him off the field. He appeared to walk at first almost unaided, but a few moments later his legs became limp and he had to be carried bodily to an ambulance.

Operation Is Performed

Manager Tris Speaker and Business Manager Walter McNichols, of Cleveland went to the hospital immediately after the game, and were at the institution when the operation was performed. The surgeons made an incision three and one-half inches long through the base of the skull on the left side. They discovered a rupture of the lateral sinus and a quantity of clotted blood. A small piece of the skull was removed.

The physicians at first entertained a faint hope that the ballplayer would recover, but he failed to rally.

Mays in discussing the accident said that the ball he threw was "sailer" - one that breaks sharply on one side, due usually to a rough spot on the cover. He asked for another ball before pitching to Speaker, who followed Chapman at the plate, and the ball which fatally injured the shortstop was thrown out of the game.

In baseball circles it was believed that Chapman's death would seriously hamper Cleveland's chances of capturing the American League pennant. He was a veteran and one of the mainstays of the team.

Widow Is At New York

Mrs. Chapman arrived at New York this morning. She was met by officials of the American League, including Tris Speaker, manager of the Cleveland team, who sought to comfort her. Speaker declared that later he would issue a statement dealing with the accident, but begged questioners not to interview him for the moment. At local headquarters of the American League, records on former league accidents were not available this morning, but John A. Heydier, president of the National League, said that as far as he could remember, Chapman was the first to lose his life in big league baseball through any kind of an accident.

Players Death Mourned

Baseball chiefs and players in both leagues mourned today the death of Ray Chapman. Reports from Cleveland are to the effect that Mayor Fitzgerald has called upon the fans to raise a memorial fund to erect a suitable memorial at the Cleveland park for the popular star.

President Heydier, of the National League, announced that all of the flags on the league's club fields would be flown at half mast this week in tribute to Chapman. All the league's players will also wear an insignia of mourning, he said. President Johnson, of the American League, paid a high tribute to Chapman.

NATIVE KENTUCKIAN

Ray Chapman Was Born At McHenry, Ohio County, In 1891

Cleveland, Ohio. Aug. 17. – Raymond Chapman was born at McHenry. Ky. Jan. 15. 1891. He had been a member of the Cleveland American League team since August 30, 1912, and was considered one of the best shortstops and most popular players in the game.

Chapman played his first professional baseball in 1909, with Mount Vernon, Ill., and from there to Davenport, Iowa, in the Three-I-league.

Cleveland first obtained Chapman from Davenport in 1911, and sold him to Toledo in the American Association, on option. He was recalled in Cleveland in 1912, and had played in more than 1,000 games in an Indian uniform.

Chapman was one of the fastest men in baseball. On September 27, 1917, Tim Murnane Day at Boston, he won a loving cup for the fastest time in circling the bases, doing it in fourteen seconds.

In 1917 he broke all major league sacrifice hit records with a total of sixty-seven, and also led the American League in sacrifices in the following two years.

He was married last year to Catherine Daly, of Cleveland, daughter of M. B. Daly, president of the East Ohio Gas company.

SISTER IS OVERCOME

Miss Margaret Chapman, Visiting Here, Learns of Brothers Death

The news of the death of Ray Chapman in a New York hospital was received early Tuesday morning in Owensboro in a message from Manager Tris Speaker, of the Cleveland team, to J. R. Johnson, an uncle of the young ball player. Miss Margaret Chapman, of Herrin, Ill., a sister of Ray Chapman, was a guest of her uncle, Mr. Johnson, and aunt, Mrs. J. R. Terrill. She was greatly shocked over the news of her brother's death. She left yesterday afternoon for her home at Herrin. Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Terrill left for Cleveland yesterday afternoon.

Ray Chapman had a large number of friends in Owensboro. He often visited his uncle at his country home. He spent a part of his honeymoon here last year. Chapman always took great pleasure in meeting Owensboro people in the cities where he was playing ball, and took special delight in introducing them to the other ball players.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 26 August 1920 p.7

Ray Chapman's Sacrifice

R. H. Gore, managing editor of the Terre Haute Post, tells the following story of the late Ray Chapman's boyhood:

It was just twenty years ago this month that Ray Chapman played his first baseball game on the Colday Center street lot in Owensboro, Ky., and there is a pretty little story about the boy who became the great professional sacrificer and his first baseball sacrifice.

Ray Chapman's grandparents lived at Owensboro on Center street, just around the corner from Fourth street, and the lot upon which his first game was played was across the street from where his grandparents and his uncle and aunts lived.

Ray Chapman was nine years old then. The Fourth Street Blues were organizing all boys of similar age. The captain was Roy Gore, now of Flint, Mich.

Ray Chapman's uncle, "Nipper" Johnson, was the shortstop for the Owensboro semi-pro ball team, and his nickname came about through his ability to annex all grounders which came within his lot.

Because of his uncle's baseball talents it was pre-supposed by the rest of us who formed the Fourth Street Blues that Ray Chapman was predisposed to be a shortstop, and so he was elected. But there was another youngster, whose name was Blandford. who wanted that place, and so Ray Chapman refused to accept what another lad wanted, and he was out of the game.

Later young Blandford was hit with a pitched ball, and Ray, the sacrificer, took the place where he was preferred. Thus he came into the game by an accident to another boy, in its very nature similar to the one which killed him. Once in, Ray Chapman was easily the favorite. Every day, there was practice either on the Center street lot or in the alley back of Logsdon's grocery, and Chapman's honest effort was no loss in these early days than they were in later times.

In a game with the Snowhill Champions, Ray Chapman knocked his first home run, and he had played so consistently that Monk White, the captain of the Snowhill team, refused to go on with the game because he claimed that Chapman was out of the class of those playing. Ray offered to retire, but this time his team, the Fourth Street Blues, stood loyal and refused to yield and so the game was never finished. It ended, as did Ray Chapman's life, in the fourth lining.



Owensboro, KY Newspapers About Ray Chapman:

- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 29 December 1911 .p6, "Ray Chapman, Toledo Shortstop, Visits Owensboro"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 7 June 1912 p.8, "Ray Chapman Goes With Cleveland Team"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 14 July 1912 p.7A, "Ray Chapman, Owensboro Boy, Is Baseball Sensation of 1912"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 12 November 1912 p.3, "Ray Chapman Picks Ty Cobb As The Greatest Ball Player"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 28 March 1913 p.6, "Ray Chapman a Sensation"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 6 April 1913 p.6, "Think Ray Chapman, Former Mud Hen, Will Be Star This Year"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 13 April 1913 p.7, "Sensation of the Big League – This is the Prediction on Ray Chapman"

- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 7 September 1913 p.7, “Chapman to Tour the World”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 8 November 1913 p.6, “Ray Chapman to Arrive in the City Today”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 6 February 1914 p.6, “Ray Chapman Gets Salary Increase From Cleveland”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 13 March 1914 p.2, “Broken Ankle Sustained By Ray Chapman”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 10 February 1915 p.6 & 24 November 1915 p.4, visits uncle, J. R. Johnson, in Owensboro
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 22 August 1915 p.6, “Cleveland Club Prefers Ray Chapman to Joe Jackson”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 10 March 1916 p.6, “Ray Chapman, Star Shortstop of American League, To Marry An Heiress”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 28 April 1916 p.7, “Chapman Out Of Game With Injured Knee”
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 17 May 1916 p.6, “Ray Chapman Out of the Hospital But Not Ready to Return to Game”
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 25 July 1916 p.6, “Connie Mack Labels Chapman Best Shortstop In His League”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 8 September 1916 p.7, “Ray Chapman Is Back at Short”, picture
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 10 November 1916 p.6, “Ray Chapman In Town”
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 16 November 1916 p.6, “Player In The Game Worth A Flock On The Bench Says Ray Chapman”
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 5 December 1916 p.10, “Sell Ray Chapman”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 21 February 1917 p.5, shortstop for the Cleveland team of the American League, resident of Herrin, IL, is visiting his uncle, J. R. Johnson, in Owensboro
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 24 June 1917 p.9, “Ray Chapman Playing Best Ball of His Career”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 20 October 1917 p.7, “Two Cleveland Stars Visiting in Owensboro” - Ray Chapman & Tris Speaker
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 27 January 1918 p.9A, “Chapman, Cleveland Star, Marvel at Bunting Game”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 2 May 1918 p.2, “Ray Chapman Has Joined U.S. Navy”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 17 January 1919 p.5, honorably discharged from the Navy
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 22 February 1919 p.7, “Ray Chapman May Quit Cleveland Team And Enter Business”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 5 October 1919 p.1A, “Ray Chapman, Star Player, To Marry a Girl In Cleveland”
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 1 November 1919 p.5, Raymond Johnson Chapman & Miss Kathleen Marie Daly were married on 29 October 1919 in Cleveland,

OH, son of Mr. & Mrs. Everett Chapman of Herrin, IL, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Martin Benson Daly of Cleveland

- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 16 August 1920 p.1, "Ray Chapmans' Skull Fractured"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 17 August 1920 p.8, "Ray Chapman Badly Injured"
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 17 August 1920 p.1, "Ray Chapman Dies As Result of Fractured Skull"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 18 August 1920 p.1, "Baseball World Is Shocked By Chapman's Death"
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 18 August 1920 p.1, "Hundreds of Loyal Fans Meet Chapman's Body at Cleveland"
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 17 August 1920 p.4, editorial on Ray Chapman
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 19 August 1920 p.5, "Cleveland Fans Are In Sorrow"
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 20 August 1920 p.1, "Chapman Burial Is Impressive"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 21 August 1920 p.2, "Final Tribute To Ray Chapman"
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 22 August 1920 p.4, "The Chapman Fund"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 26 August 1920 p.7, "Ray Chapman's Sacrifice"
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 3 September 1920 p.1, "Cleveland Will Pay Tribute To Chapman"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 5 September 1920 p.2, uncle, J. R. Johnson, of Owensboro receives Ray Chapman memorial booklet
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 14 September 1920 p.1, "Chapman's Picture In Center of Memorial", bronze tablet to be placed in Cleveland ball park
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 16 September 1920 p.8, film of Ray Chapman's funeral is shown at the Empress theatre in Owensboro
- Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 28 February 1921 p1, "Daughter Is Born To Ray Chapman's Widow"
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 30 April 1929 p.4, daughter, Ray Marie Chapman, age 8, died in Cleveland on 26 April 1929, her mother, Mrs. Mahan, died a year ago
- Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 12 August 1952 p.3, father, Everett Chapman, 90, died 10 August 1952 at Herrin, IL
- Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 13 August 1989 p.1C, "Ohio Countian's death a tragic stat, Bean ball the source of major-league baseball's only casualty", Chapman, a native of McHenry in Ohio County who made his winter home in Owensboro, carried a hefty .303 average into New York's Polo Grounds 16 August 1920, for a game against the Yankees; his Cleveland Indians sat atop the American League and would go on to win the 1920 World Series over the Brooklyn Robins, but Chapman wasn't around to enjoy the Series; the last pitch he ever saw was Carl Mays' first throw of the fifth inning, Chapman leaned toward the plate in his usual crouching position, the crowd of better than 22,000 at the Polo Grounds heard a loud crack and watched as Mays fielded the ball and threw to

first baseman Wally Pipp to retire Chapman, those not watching Mays saw Chapman collapse into catcher Muddy Ruel's arms at home plate; doctors were summoned from the grandstand to discover the crack they'd heard was not the ball hitting Chapman's bat; a fastball meeting a baseball player's head is dangerous even today, but at a time when batting helmets were not yet in use, such a hit could be fatal; the pitch fractured the left side of Chapman's skull; he was revived momentarily and began a slow walk to the clubhouse aided by two teammates, only to collapse again seconds later, late that night, an operation was performed during which a small portion of Chapman's skull was removed; he died at 4:50 a.m., August 17; Chapman, 29 when he died, is the only player to be fatally injured in a major-league baseball game; the days following Chapman's death turned to investigating the accident, Mays, an accused baseball scuffer, was cleared of criminal charges; as that controversy was being settled, Chapman's legend emerged, the newspapers said Chapman's eagerness to help give Cleveland its first pennant indirectly killed him; Chapman married 10 months before his death and considered retiring from baseball to devote time to business; height 5-foot-10, weight 170 pounds, made his major league debut 30 August 1912

- Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 17 August 1990 p.4D, “Ray Chapman service set in Cleveland”
- Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 26 August 1990 p.1C & 8C, “Ohio seeks memorial for baseball hero”
- Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 May 1992 Kentucky Portrait, 1792-1992 special edition, p.30, “McHenry man was only player ever killed in major league baseball game”
- Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 21 September 2004 p.63S, “Chapman only Major Leaguer killed in game”
- Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 March 2007 p.6B, “Indians find Chapman plaque - Ohio County native was killed by pitch in 1920” and 10 October 2007 p.1C, “Indians' strange season began with uncovering Chapman plaque”

Ohio County, KY Newspapers About Ray Chapman:

- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 18 September 1912 p.1, “An Ohio County Boy Is A Star”
- Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, 20 September 1912 p.4, “Former Ohio County Boy Is Wonder – Ray Chapman Is Sensation in Base Ball World”
- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 18 March 1914 p.1, “Ray Chapman Was Hurt While Sliding To Base”
- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 10 October 1917 p.1, “Ray Chapman Will Be In Owensboro This Week”
- Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, 20 August 1920 p.1, “Ray Chapman Dies From Pitched Ball”
- Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 1 September 1920 p.2, “Ray Chapman Killed In Baseball Game”
- Ohio County Messenger, Beaver Dam, KY, 4 September 1964 p.8, “Woodward Review’s Baseball History In County, State”
- Ohio County Messenger, Beaver Dam, KY, 17 April 1970 p.22, “Ray Chapman, Major League Baseball Player From McHenry”

- Ohio County Messenger, Beaver Dam, KY, 11 July 1980, p.14B, “Woodward Reviews Baseball History”
- Beaver Dam Messenger, Beaver Dam, KY, 15 August 1990 p.1, “In Cleveland McHenry baseball hero to be honored”
- Ohio County Messenger, Beaver Dam, KY, 28 August 2002 p3, “Ray Chapman: Will a memorial be erected for famed McHenry baseball player?”
- Times-News, Hartford, KY, 17 June 2004 1B, “Chapman still lacks respect from MLB, Ohio County”

• • • • •

