

# Richard Felix ‘Dick’ Wallace (1882-1925)

By Jerry Long  
c.2024



Dick Wallace



**Greenwood Cemetery History – Owensboro, Daviess County, KY**  
by Jerry Long, 2006, p.9, **West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy,**  
Internet (<https://wckyhhistory-genealogy.org/>)

The Owensboro Messenger of 23 July 1925 (p.5) records that Felix Wallace, formerly of Owensboro, died in St. Louis and was returned to Owensboro and buried at Greenwood Cemetery. He was then the owner and manager of the St. Louis Giants Negro baseball team. Wallace is mentioned in several books on Black Baseball players (see The Complete Book of Baseball’s Negro Leagues by John Holway, Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001, pp74, 82 92-93, 98-99, 101, 114-115, 126, 129 & 155 and The Negro Leagues Book by Dick Clark and Larry Lester, Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994).



Richard Felix (“Dick”) Wallace was born 22 July 1882 in Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. He was the son of Thomas Wallace & Sarah J. Cosby. His father died 1885-1899. His mother, Mrs. Sarah Wallace, was born 15 March 1862 and died 26 May 1943 in Owensboro, KY. She was buried Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY. Her death certificate recorded her parents as John McLean & Polly Cosby. Felix Wallace had siblings –

- Lettie Wallace Morton (1878-1958), buried Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY, wife of Andrew Morton;
- Mary Elizabeth Wallace Morton (1881-1939), buried Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY, wife of William Owsley, Thomas Johnson & Albert Norris;
- Sallie B. Wallace (1886-1953), wife of James Smith & Rev. Curtis Flowers, buried Greenwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY.
- A fifth child of Thomas & Sarah Wallace died prior to 1900

Felix Wallace is listed in the 1901, 1903 & 1907 city directories of Owensboro and 1910 & 1920 Federal Censuses of Owensboro:

Owensboro City Directory, 1901, p.207:

Wallace, Sarah	Black – widow of Thomas – house 718 Jackson
Wallace, Felix	Black – stemmer – beds 718 Jackson
Wallace, Lettie	Black – stemmer – beds 718 Jackson

Owensboro City Directory, 1903, p.277:

Wallace, Sarah	widow of Thomas – house 718 Jackson
Wallace, Felix	stemmer – beds 718 Jackson
Wallace, Lettie	stemmer – beds 718 Jackson

Owensboro City Directory, 1907, p.212:

Wallace, Felix	Black – wife Georgia – laborer – residence 1026 Oglesby Ave.
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Owensboro, Daviess County, KY 1900 Federal Census, p.44B, 718 Jackson Street:

Wallace, Sarah	Nov 1860	Black – widow – wash woman	KY-TN-KY
		5 children 4 living – rents	
“ Lettie	Jan 1875	Black – daughter – single	KY-KY-KY
		tobacco stemmer	
“ Felix	Jul 1881	Black – son – single	KY-KY-KY
		tobacco stemmer	
Baker, Fred	Jun 1885	Black – nephew – single	KY-KY-KY
		tobacco stemmer	

Owensboro, Daviess County, KY 1910 Federal Census, p.274A, 623 Sycamore Street:

Wallace, Felix	27	Black – married 6 years – rents	KY-KY-KY
		tobacco stemmer	
“ Georgia	27	Black – wife – 1 child 1 living	KY-KY-KY
“ Daisy	1	Black – daughter	KY-KY-KY

On 9 September 1918 Felix Wallace registered for the World War I Draft. He registered under the name of Richard Wallace. He was then a resident of St. Louis, MO. The document reported that he was born 22 July 1882; his occupation was ballplayer; he was an employee of James Keenan of New York City. His nearest relative was entered as Sarah Wallace of 2602 Hathaway, Owensboro, KY.

REGISTRATION CARD									
SERIAL NUMBER		1411			ORDER NUMBER		3194		
1 <i>Richard</i>					1 <i>Wallace</i>				
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS									
<i>2621 A Adams St. St. Louis Mo.</i>									
3 Age in Years		4 Date of Birth		5		6		7	
<i>36</i>		<i>July 22</i>		<i>1882</i>					
RACE									
White		Negro		Oriental		Indian		Haitian	
5		6 <i>yes</i>		7		8		9	
U. S. CITIZEN					ALIEN				
10 Native Born		11 Naturalized		12 Entered by Father's Naturalization Before Emperor's Majesty		13 Declared		14 Non-declared	
10 <i>yes</i>		11		12		13		14	
15 I am a citizen of the U. S., of what race are you a citizen or subject?									
16 PRESENT OCCUPATION					17 EMPLOYER'S NAME				
<i>Ballplayer</i>					<i>James Keenan</i>				
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS									
<i>1407 Broadway, N. Y. City N.Y.</i>									
19 NEAREST RELATIVE		20		21		22		23	
Name		Address		City		County		State	
<i>Sarah Wallace</i>		<i>2602 Hathaway St. Owensboro, Kentucky</i>		<i>Owensboro</i>		<i>Daviess</i>		<i>Kentucky</i>	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE									
<i>Richard Wallace</i>									
P. M. G. O. FORM NO. 1 (Red)									

Felix Wallace married Georgia Dabney during 1902-1907. She was the daughter of Henry & Mary Dabney. Her death certificate records that she was born 25 February 1891 Henderson, Henderson County, KY and died in 7 September 1967 in Louisville, KY, where she was buried in the Eastern Cemetery. Felix & Georgia separated. His death certificate reported that he was single. They were the parents of:

- Daisy Mae Wallace, born 28 August 1908 Ramsey County, MN. She married George W. Martin (1909-1977) on 25 June 1940 in Louisville, KY. She died 1 July 1985 San Bernardino County, CA. She was buried Montecito Memorial Park, Colton, San Bernardino County, CA.
- Felix Wallace, Jr. born 4 December 1912 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY. He married Hannah Wade, 6 August 1940 in Louisville, KY and Susan Margaret Martin (1925-2002), 17 June 1943 in Louisville, KY. He died 9 February 1976 Louisville, KY, where he was buried in Eastern Cemetery.



**“Minnesota’s Black Baseball Players”, by Steven R. Hoffbeck**  
**(Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN),**  
**Internet (<http://www.mnstate.edu/hoffbeck/Players.doc>)**

Felix Wallace. Second baseman. Born in Owensboro, KY, c. 1884.(1) Began his career with Paducah Nationals, Paducah, KY, in 1903; played for Paducah Nationals in 1904 and 1905,(2) 1906, Cuban Giants of New York City; also 1907.(3) Another source lists him in 1907 with Baltimore Laurels, infielder.(4) 1908 St. Paul Colored Gophers, 2B.(5) 1909, St. Paul Colored Gophers, 2B.(6) In 1910, he was with the Chicago Giants, owned by Frank Leland, 2B playing alongside former teammates [from the St. Paul Colored Gophers] Walter Ball, Bobby Marshall, George "Rat" Johnson, Steel Arm Johnny Taylor, and Candy Jim Taylor.(7) For 1911, he joined the St. Louis Giants, 2B, where his teammates included Candy Jim Taylor, Steel Arm Johnny Taylor, Ben Taylor, and George ["Rat" or "Chappie"] Johnson.(8) 1912, again with St. Louis Giants, 2B, alongside Walter Ball and George ["Rat" or "Chappie"] Johnson.(9) In 1913, in the winter, he played SS, 2B, for Breaker's Hotel team, and then in the regular season, he played again with the St. Louis Giants, 1b, utility; and was listed with the 1913 West All-Star team, along with Candy Jim Taylor and Rube Foster.(10) 1914, SS, for New York Lincoln Giants, along with Walter Ball and Bill Gatewood [in a two game series against white major league players, he was the black leader with a .500 batting average.(11) 1915, listed with St. Louis Giants, SS, along with Gill Gatewood.(12) In 1916, Bacharach Giants, 2B; and St. Louis Giants [with Bill Gatewood] and a game against major leaguers [one hit in five at-bats]; and resort baseball in Florida with the Breakers team.(13) 1917, Bacharach Giants, CF; New York Lincoln Giants, SS.(14) 1918, SS, New York Lincoln Giants [with John Donaldson as teammate]; St. Louis Giants [with Bill Gatewood as teammate].(15) 1919, 3B, with Hilldale club; also SS with St. Louis Giants [teammate Bill Gatewood].(16) 1920, 3B, 2B, St. Louis Giants.(17) 1921, St. Louis Giants, Manager, SS.(18) 1922-1926: unknown. 1927, Manager, 3B, St. Louis Giants.(19)

- (1) Frank Leland, Frank Leland's Chicago Giants Base Ball Club, (Chicago: n.p., 1910), p. 8, photocopy.
- (2) Frank Leland, Frank Leland's Chicago Giants Base Ball Club, (Chicago: n.p., 1910), p. 8, photocopy.
- (3) Frank Leland, Frank Leland's Chicago Giants Base Ball Club, (Chicago: n.p., 1910), p. 8, photocopy.
- (4) "Independents Notes," Minneapolis Tribune, February 2, 1908, p. 3, Sports, tells of Wallace playing with a Baltimore team in 1907.
- (5) "Colored Gophers Are Ready for First Game," Minneapolis Tribune, March 1, 1908, p. 2, Sports; "Locals Have Bad Inning," Stillwater [MN] Daily Gazette, June 8, 1908, p. 4; "Negro Starts Excitement," Stillwater [MN] Daily Gazette, August 24, 1908, p. 2; Frank Leland, Frank Leland's Chicago Giants Base Ball Club, (Chicago: n.p., 1910), p. 8, photocopy.
- (6) "News from the Independents," Minneapolis Tribune, May 2, 1909, p. 3, Sports.
- (7) "Crack Chicago Colored Team," Twin City Star [Minneapolis & St. Paul], July 21, 1910, p. 1; Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 61; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 74.

- (8) John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 82; Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 63.
- (9) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 63.
- (10) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 64-65; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 92, 93.
- (11) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 65; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 99, 100-101.
- (12) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 67; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 104.
- (13) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 68, 69; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 114, 115.
- (14) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 70, 71.
- (15) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 73; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 125, 126.
- (16) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 74, 75; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 129.
- (17) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 77; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 141.
- (18) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book (Cleveland: Society for American Baseball Research, 1994), p. 81; John Holway, The Complete Book of Baseball's Negro Leagues (Fern Park, FL: Hastings House Publishers, 2001), p. 155.
- (19) Dick Clark and Larry Lester, The Negro Leagues Book, p. 96.



**Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, Minneapolis, MN, 30 August 1908, p.50:**

Keystones Face Gophers at Minnehaha

..... The three particular stars of the Gopher team are "Rat" Johnson, the catcher; Felix Wallace, on second, and Hilly Gatewood, the pitcher. All these players will participate in today's game at Minnehaha.

[ed. note – Felix Wallace was a member of the St. Paul Gophers, a colored semi-professional baseball team.]



**FELIX WALLACE, OF THE ST.  
LOUIS GIANTS.**

The St. Louis Giants management counts itself extremely lucky in signing up Felix Wallace for the season of 1911. The new man has an excellent record as an infielder—in fact, an all-round player who can play with success at most any station. Wallace played with the St. Paul Gophers in 1909, and was captain of



that well-known team. The season of 1910 he played third base for the Chicago Giants. Both of these teams are top-notchers. His important positions in them show well for Mr. Wallace. He will be leader of the St. Louis Giants, consequently great things are expected of him for 1911.



The St. Louis Argus, St. Louis, MO, Friday, 17 September 1915, p.8:



Captain Dick Wallace  
In Charge of the St. Louis Champions



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 23 July 1925, p5:

NEGRO BALL PLAYER DIES.

Felix Wallace, 44, Owensboro negro, now owner and manager of the St. Louis Giants ball team, died his home in St. Louis Sunday. His body was shipped to Owensboro and funeral will be conducted from the Center street Baptist church at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon. Interment will be in Greenwood cemetery.

[ed. note – his grave is unmarked.]



**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Do not use this space.  
22441

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration District No. 757  
Twp. \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct Registration District No. 10  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ (No. #10 S. Compton) File No. 7040  
Registered No. \_\_\_\_\_

2. FULL NAME *Richard Phelix Wallace*  
(a) Residence No. \_\_\_\_\_ St. 7 W. (If nonresident give city or town and State)  
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U.S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX <i>male</i>	4. COLOR OR RACE <i>col</i>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) <i>single</i>	16. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <i>7-19-25</i>		
14. IF MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED HUSBAND OF (OR) WIFE OF _____			17. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a duly licensed physician and surgeon in the State of Missouri, and that I have examined the body of the deceased and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____, Missouri, and that the cause of death was as follows: <i>Laryngeal abscess</i>		
6. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH, DAY AND YEAR) <i>7-22-1882</i>			18. THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS AS FOLLOWS: <i>Laryngeal abscess</i>		
7. AGE Years: <i>43</i> Months: <i>11</i> Days: <i>26</i> If LESS than 1 day, — hrs. — min.			CONTRIBUTORY (SECONDARY) <i>Profusion Sharp</i>		
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work: <i>Ball player</i> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer): _____ (c) Name of employer: _____			19. WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED: IF NOT AT PLACE OF DEATH: _____ IF AT PLACE OF DEATH: _____		
9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN) <i>Owensboro</i> (STATE OR COUNTRY) <i>Kentucky</i>			20. DID AN OPERATION PRECEDE DEATH? <i>No</i> Date of <i>July 10</i>		
PARENTS	10. NAME OF FATHER <i>Thomas Wallace</i>		21. WAS THERE AN AUTOPSY? <i>No</i>		
	11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN) <i>Middlesburg</i> (STATE OR COUNTRY) <i>Kentucky</i>		WHAT TEST CONTINUED? <i>Stomach</i>		
	12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <i>Sarah Corley</i>		22. STATE THE DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or to death from FURTHER CAUSES, state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF CAUSE, and (2) whether ACUTE, CHRONIC, or INTERMITTENT. (See reverse side for additional space.)		
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN) <i>Calhoun</i> (STATE OR COUNTRY) <i>Kentucky</i>		19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL <i>Owensboro Ky</i> DATE OF BURIAL <i>7-23-25</i>			
14. Informant <i>Sarah Wallace</i> (Address) <i>Owensboro Ky</i>			20. UNDERTAKER <i>Peoples and Co</i> ADDRESS <i>Franklin</i>		
15. Informant <i>Max Staroff</i> (Address) <i>21 S. Main</i>					

The St. Louis Argus, St. Louis, MO, Friday, 24 July 1925, p.7:



Richard (Dick) Wallace, well known baseball player, died Sunday afternoon at 10a South Compton avenue, following an operation he underwent for throat troubles. He had been confined to bed for three weeks.

Wallace was born in Owensboro. Kentucky. He came to St. Louis 15 years ago, with the then famous Leland Giants Baseball club. Later he became captain of the St. Louis Giants and his scientific baseball ability was directly responsible for the enviable record that organization enjoyed for three or four seasons. In the years that followed until his death he was in demand and sought by baseball magnates for his expert knowledge. His last appearance as a player was three weeks ago at the Stars' park when the Athletics, the team on which he played third base, opposed the Belleville Clerks.



Funeral services were held for the deceased Wednesday morning at the Mutual League Burial parlors 3100 Franklin avenue. His remains were shipped Owensboro. Ky., for burial. Mrs. Aaron Matthews and Mrs. Maud Blanks of 10a South Compton avenue accompanied the body.

Wallace was 44 years old. He was member of the Ancient United Knights and Daughters of Africa. Mrs. Sarah Wallace, mother; Felix Wallace, father; Mrs. Mary Johnson. Mrs. Lottie Morton, and Mrs. Sallie Jones, sisters who reside in Owensboro, survive the deceased.



**Kentucky Explorer, Jackson, KY, September 2009, pp.54-55:**

## Profiles Of Six Kentucky Negro League Baseball Players

*Beckwith, Dougherty, Hughes, Page, Thomas, And Wallace  
Should Be Included In List Of Greatest Ky. Baseball Players*

By Brad P. Clarke – 2004

..... Felix Wallace was born in 1884 at Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky, and began his baseball career in 1903 as a member of the Paducah Nationals and ended in 1921 as a member of the St. Louis Giants. Wallace was a consistent hitter, a good base runner, and a marvelous infielder. During his 18-year career, Wallace was considered one of the greatest shortstops and was known to have no superior as a second baseman.

Brad P. Clarke, 2065 Shaker Run Road, Lexington, KY 40509, shares this information with our readers.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 12 June 2014, pp.1B & 3B:**

Owensboro  
should  
remember  
Dick Wallace

Richard Felix "Dick" Wallace isn't in the Owensboro-Daviess County Hall of Fame.

But he probably should be.

Wallace was one of the best baseball players to ever come out of Daviess County.

But he was never in the major leagues.

Wallace was black and he died long before Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier in 1947.

A variety of websites say that Wallace, a star in the Negro leagues, was born in Owensboro on July 22, 1884, the son of Sarah J. Wallace.

One site says Wallace was "considered one of the greatest all-time shortstops and the best second baseman. He also played third base."

He apparently pitched at least one game, caught at least one game and played first base at one point in his career in the Cuban-American Negro League, Cuban General League, Cuban National League, Independent Negro League and Negro National League.

There is some disagreement about when his career began and ended.

But the most thorough list of his career says Wallace began playing with the Paducah Nationals in 1903 and stayed with the team through 1905.

From there, it says he played for the Cuban Giants in New York, 1906-07; the Baltimore Laurels in 1907; St. Paul Colored Gophers in 1908-09; Chicago Giants, 1910; St. Louis Giants, 1911-13 (he was listed as a member of the 1913 West All-Star team); New York Lincoln Giants, 1914; St. Louis Giants, 1915; Bacharach Giants and St. Louis Giants, 1916; Bacharach Giants, 1917; New York Lincoln Giants and St. Louis Giants, 1918; St. Louis Giants, 1919-20; and manager and shortstop of St. Louis Giants, 1921.

One site says that in 1914, Wallace batted .500 in a two-game series against white players.

Unfortunately, it doesn't list the white team.

There is one reference of him getting two hits against Chicago Cubs pitcher Ray Brown in late 1909.

That was a Cubs' team that featured the deadly double-play combination of shortstop Joe Tinker, second baseman Johnny Evers and first baseman Frank Chance.

There's also a reference to one hit and five at bats against a white team in 1916.

Another site says Wallace hit .348 in 1914.

His lifetime batting average is listed at .241.

One site says his career ended in 1921, with his last two years spent playing for the Hilldale Daisies in Darby, Pennsylvania.

Records for the early Negro leagues have been somewhat scattered through the years.

Wallace apparently worked as a tobacco stemmer — stripping the stems from moistened tobacco leaves and binding the leaves together — in the off-season in the early years of his career.

As a player-manager, his teams were 162-149.

He was 42 — three days shy of his 43rd birthday — when he died in St. Louis on July 19, 1925.

Jackie Robinson was 6 years old.

In 1952, the Pittsburgh Courier, a black newspaper, polled its fans on the best players in the old Negro leagues.

Wallace made the third team — 28 years after he died.

His one paragraph obituary in the Owensboro Messenger says that he was the owner-manager of the St. Louis Giants at the time.

The cause of death isn't listed.

Wallace is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

He has long been forgotten in his hometown.

But he really should be remembered.



For a detailed statistical record of Dick Wallace's baseball career see:  
<https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/player.php?playerID=walla01fel>



Felix Wallace captain & second baseman  
of the colored Gophers



St. Louis Giants Team photograph, 1916. The players are identified as back row, left to right, Bill Gatewood, P; [Bill] Drake, P; [Ted] Kimbro; Tully [Tullie] McAdoo, 1B; Sam Bennett, C, OF; [Lee] Wade. Front row, left to right, McKinley [Bunny] Downs, LF; Frank Warfield, 2B; Dan Kennard, C; Chas. [Charles] Mills Mgr.; **[Dick] Wallace, Capt., SS**; Jimmy [Jimmie] Lyons, OF; [Charlie] Blackwell, OF. Picture is from the collection of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY.



Dick Wallace