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Baseball Career of Andy Cooper in Kansas



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Cover image: Andy Cooper and Oscar Charleston at the 1938 East-West All-Star Game.
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Baseball Career of Andy Cooper in Kansas

Mark E. Eberle

Wichita, Kansas. June 1928. Anticipation among baseball fans was growing as the *Wichita Eagle* promoted a visit by the Kansas City Monarchs, who were to play a pair of games with a local team. Much of the newspaper's promotion centered on the return of a local player and two others who had previously played for Wichita teams. All three were now members of the famed Monarchs.¹

The local player was Thomas Jefferson "T.J." Young, who sometimes went by the nickname "T Baby." Born in Alabama, Young was primarily a catcher who first played in Wichita for the Black Wonders in 1922. Later that spring, the team was purchased by the Monrovia Amusement Park Corporation, which had its own ballpark at the intersection of 12th and Mosley Streets (between Mosely and Meade). The Monrovia joined the Colored Western League when it reorganized later that summer and claimed the pennant in the league's only season. Young played for the Monrovia again in 1923, including games with the Kansas City Monarchs. He joined the Monarchs' roster in 1926 and played for Negro Leagues teams through 1937, with a brief return in 1941.² Young lived in Wichita during the offseason with his wife, Flora.

The other two players on the Monarch's roster who reportedly played for the Monrovia were Walter "Newt" Joseph and Andrew "Lefty" Cooper. It seems unlikely that either would have spent much time with the Monrovia, because both were playing in the Negro National League. However, in April 1923, the Monrovia had a third baseman named Joseph. No other information about the player was found. Box scores for the Monrovia were rare, but there was no mention of him after April. Thus, it is possible Newt Joseph played for the Monrovia prior to joining the Monarchs in late April, when the Monarchs stopped in Wichita on their way north from Texas. They defeated the Monrovia, 4-2, but there was no mention of whether Joseph played for the Monrovia or the Monarchs.³

In the case of Andy Cooper, no one with that name is known to have played for the Monrovia. However, the 1928 article also mentioned that before Cooper joined the Monrovia, he had played for a Cudahy team sponsored by the meat packing company. Just how much earlier was not specified.⁴ Thus, the possibility that Andy Cooper played in Wichita before he joined the Detroit Stars of the Negro National League in 1920 prompted additional research.

Much of Cooper's early life and career has been a mystery. He was born to Robert and Emma (Gilbert) Cooper in Texas. It is often reported that he was born in Waco, but his 1918 draft registration card listed his birthplace as Washington County (east of Austin). His birthdate is also uncertain, reported to be April 24 in 1896 (tombstone), 1897 (draft card), or 1898 (death certificate). The fact that he registered for the draft on 5 June 1918 suggests he turned 21 that year, which would make his birthdate 24 April 1897. This is corroborated by the notice of his intent to marry filed in California and published in January 1928. It listed his age as 30 about 16 weeks before his birthday in April.⁵

In addition to reports that Waco was his birthplace, the city has often been listed as his home.⁶ However, according to the 1910 census, Andrew Cooper lived with his mother and brothers in Limestone County, immediately east of McLennan County (Waco). A move to Waco came sometime after this, as indicated by his 1918 draft card, which listed a home address in Waco. He was not found in any census records for 1920, 1930, or 1940, which probably reflects his absence while playing baseball when each census was conducted (see endnote for additional details).⁷ In the 1940 census, his mother still lived at the same address in Waco given on Andy's 1918 draft card, and her son, Henry, lived next door (see endnote).⁸ Additional information about Andy's offseason home will be presented later.

With regard to his early baseball career, there are two reports of a Black ballplayer in Kansas City in 1914 who might have been pitcher Andy Cooper from Texas. However, the evidence is meager, and he would have been only 17 years old if born in 1897.

In April, "Andrew Cooper" was on the roster of the Diamond Grays, a team composed of young, Black players. The team challenged other amateur clubs with players 19–20 years old, but that would not preclude the team from having a good, younger player on its roster. While that note alone is unconvincing, a second note adds to the mystery. It reported the results of a game between two of the metropolitan area's top Black clubs in August. In this game, the Kansas City Mohawks defeated the Kansas City Royal American Giants, and "Cannon Ball Cooper pitched fine ball for the Mohawks."⁹

It is unlikely, though not impossible, that the pitcher was a native of Kansas City named Alfred Cooper Jr., who later picked up the nickname "Army." From 1928 to 1930, the lefthanded pitcher played for the Kansas City Monarchs, along with Andy Cooper.¹⁰ However, Army Cooper was born in November 1899, according to the 1900 census, which would mean he was only 14 years old during the 1914 baseball season. Additional research on the identity of this Cooper on Kansas City baseball diamonds in 1914 is needed, including sources not yet widely available (for example, the *Kansas City Journal*).

The first strong evidence for Andy Cooper playing baseball in Kansas was in July 1917, when he pitched for the Wichita Sluggers, a Black ball club that competed against Black and white teams around Wichita. Information in newspaper reports was likely provided by the team's manager and catcher, Whitt Medcalf. Some of the notices closed with Medcalf's contact information for teams wanting to arrange games with the Sluggers. Newspapers usually referred to the team's star pitcher as Lefty Cooper, but on July 19, the *Wichita Beacon* used the name "'Cannon Ball Lefty' Cooper." The same notice announced an upcoming game and provided a roster for the Sluggers, which included "Andrew Cooper" as one of the pitchers. On July 22, a note in the *Wichita Eagle* mentioned that "Cooper was formerly with the Fort Worth Giants."¹¹

Whether that meant Cooper pitched in Texas earlier that spring or during a previous year is unclear. The top Black club in Fort Worth in 1915 and 1916 was the Wonders. In Dallas, it was the Black Giants, who also played in 1917. During those years, no one named Cooper was found who played for either of these teams, or for the Waco Black Navigators or Waco Yellow Jackets, based on the few detailed reports in the *Corsicana Daily Sun*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Fort Worth Record*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *Houston Post*, and *Waco Morning News*.

Cooper's baseball experiences in Texas during the period 1914–1919 need to be thoroughly researched in contemporary sources.

Lefty Cooper continued to pitch for the Sluggers through at least August. A disagreement arose among the Black ballplayers of Wichita that summer, and a second team was organized—the Southern Wonders. In August, the two teams agreed to play a doubleheader “for the colored team championship of Wichita.” The arrangement included a stipulation. “The team that loses will step down and out as far as Wichita games are concerned.” Despite the apparent intensity of the rivalry on the field, the “Sluggers’ string band” would furnish “music for the occasion.” Nothing was resolved, however. The Sluggers, with Cooper on the mound, won the first game, 5–4, but the Southern Wonders prevailed in the second contest, 4–3.¹²

Cooper apparently was not involved in the dispute, and on September 23, he pitched for the Southern Wonders in a game against the white Cudahy team, losing 11–10. Two umpires officiated the game, one white and one Black. “Stanton and Cooper both pitched good ball but were given ragged support at times[,] which accounted for the large scores.”¹³ That was the last report of Cooper in Wichita in 1917, but it was not the last report prior to 1920.

The Wichita Sluggers were active in 1918, but baseball activity was diminished, as increasing numbers of American soldiers were sent to Europe during the final year of the First World War. There was no mention of Andy Cooper in Wichita that year, and he apparently remained in Texas (see endnote).¹⁴ His draft card was dated June 5 in Waco and listed him as unemployed. Cooper later wrote that he served in France during the war, but the unit and other details of his service have not yet been documented.¹⁵

With the end of the war in November 1918, baseball rebounded the following summer. In February and April, J. Alba Austin of the *Dallas Express* reported Andrew Cooper was on the roster of the Dallas Black Giants, but no record of him playing for the team was found.¹⁶

Instead, Lefty Cooper returned to Wichita and pitched for the Colored Giants from late May through Labor Day. The Colored Giants was a reorganized version of the Sluggers, and Whitt Medcalf was again Cooper's catcher and manager.¹⁷ The team played independently but also participated in the City League as part of a 24-game season. Wichita had two leagues that summer. Teams in the Twilight League could only use players in the employ of the company sponsors. Teams in the City League were allowed to use outside players. The Wichita Colored Giants finished third among the eight teams in the City League, with a record of 15–9. They were the only team not named for a local business sponsor.¹⁸

Other than their share of gate receipts, winner-take-all wagers by the teams, and possible guarantees for trips out of town, no information about support for the Colored Giants was found. Given that the Monrovia Amusement Park Corporation would build its own ballpark and enter a team in the Colored Western League only three years later, perhaps support for the Colored Giants came from multiple boosters in Wichita's African American community.

In July, all-star teams representing the two leagues arranged to play each other for the championship of Wichita and to boost the treasuries of both leagues. However, choosing a talented Black pitcher such as Andy Cooper for an integrated team was not an option. Segregated teams were the rule. Thus, there would be two games. In the main contest,

picked teams of white players would represent the two leagues, while the Colored Giants would play in the opening game against another picked team of white players from the Twilight League, as described in the *Wichita Beacon*.¹⁹

The Wichita Colored Giants, with Lefty Cooper pitching, will be the City Leaguers' best bet for the preliminary game and should furnish the fans with an interesting scrap. The colored boys know how to play[,] and their actions, expressions and spectacular stunts should bewilder the lowly Twilighters. Some of the Twilighters fear these boys and would prefer playing an "all star" white team in the preliminary [contest], yet as the Colored Giants are in the City League[,] they can have no real objection to playing them.²⁰

Both of the City League teams were victorious, with the Colored Giants winning their contest, 5–3. "All interest of this game centered around Cooper, the pitcher and pinnacle of the City league representatives." He limited the Twilight League squad to five hits, and the Giants committed no errors. The numbers of walks and strikeouts, as well as other data, were not reported.²¹

That was typical for amateur and semipro teams at the time, and the absence of data for individual players precludes any statistical assessment of Cooper's performance during this period, even his record of wins and losses. However, praise in newspapers suggests he did well. One example was published in the *Wichita Eagle* in August 1919, near the end of his time playing for the Colored Giants. "This young southpaw is about the class [of] Wichita's hurlers. He has a world of stuff, speed and a good baseball bean. His all-around work has made the Giants a team to be feared by the other clubs in the [City] league."²² In addition to the absence of statistical data, no information was ever provided regarding the bigger question: What would prompt Cooper to come to Wichita to play baseball in 1917 and 1919 instead of spending these seasons with teams in Dallas, Fort Worth, or Waco?

Cooper was scheduled to pitch for the Colored Giants on Labor Day 1919, though no results for the game were published.²³ After that, he presumably left Wichita for Texas. In 1920, Cooper embarked on a 20-year career as a player and manager in the Negro Leagues, mostly with the Detroit Stars and Kansas City Monarchs. As noted earlier, he occasionally played for the Monarchs in Wichita when they barnstormed through the region.²⁴

In addition to playing baseball in Wichita, Cooper sometimes lived in the city during the offseason, perhaps because of some unknown connection that drew him to the city in 1917–1919 or because it was the home of his friend and teammate, T.J. Young. However, Cooper's stays in Wichita were likely brief, because he often played in California, Cuba, or elsewhere during the winter.²⁵

Cooper's time in California involved more than winter baseball. His wife, Norine, a Texas native, had been living in Los Angeles since at least 1920. Cooper later wrote about her before his departure from California in April 1927 to play baseball on a tour of the Far East. "My sweetheart, which later became my wife[,] was standing on the pier crying and waving a white handkerchief; she looked better to me than ever; I almost debarked." An intent to marry for Andy and Norine was published in California in January 1928. Yet, despite her long

residence in Los Angeles with her mother, Norine gave birth to Andrew Lewis Cooper Jr. in Wichita in March 1929. The April 1930 census recorded Norine and Andy Jr. back in Los Angeles, living with her mother. After a trip to visit friends in Wichita in August 1931, Norine passed away in Los Angeles on September 1 (see endnote).²⁶

Newspaper reports indicate Andy Sr. also lived in Wichita during the 1930s.²⁷ In addition, the 1936 city directory for Wichita listed the residence of Andrew L. Cooper, “ball player,” and his wife, Mamie, as 1322 Cleveland Avenue. This was also the address of Bennie Williams and his wife, Lula, in July 1936. Williams was a city firefighter and the sports editor for Wichita’s weekly *Negro Star*. As the city directory indicated, Cooper had remarried. Mamie (Givens) Walker, a resident of Wichita, was widowed in 1929. In March 1935, the *Negro Star*, reported her marriage to Cooper in a passing comment. “Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Young, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Cooper were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Williams. Mrs. Cooper will be remembered to her many friends as Mrs. Mamie Walker.” The note went on to mention that “Mr. and Mrs. Walker [Cooper] are stopping with Mr. and Mrs. Williams.”²⁸ Collectively, this information suggests the Coopers stayed with the Williams in 1935 and 1936, and perhaps other years, rather than having a house of their own during their relatively brief stays in Wichita.

While he was a temporary resident of Wichita, Cooper agreed to write for the *Negro Star* about baseball and his travels. The first columns in March 1934 were letters he wrote during a trip that he, T.J. Young, and other Negro League players made to the Far East in 1933–1934. They played for a team from California named the Philadelphia Royal Giants, which was making its final tour overseas. The trip included stops in Japan, China, the Philippines, and Hawaii. Cooper also wrote about his first trip to Japan with the Royal Giants in 1927. After T.J. Young returned to Wichita in April, he, too, wrote for the *Negro Star* about his experiences during the 1933–1934 tour.²⁹

Cooper again took up the pen during the winter of 1934–1935, when his name appeared on the byline for a column in the *Negro Star* called “Stove League.” It was a reference to the name given to gossip about baseball during the winter, as though the conversationalists were gathered around a hot stove. The column was a regular feature of the “Amusements and Sports” section edited by Bennie Williams. The first two installments were written by “T Baby Young.” Then, every week from November 16 through March 22, with two exceptions, Cooper wrote the column. (There was no column the last week of December, and fellow pitcher Chester “Chet” Brewer, born in Leavenworth, Kansas, wrote the column on January 11.) Cooper’s topics ranged from his impressions of the countries he had visited to stories about various teams and players.³⁰

His first installment for the Stove League ran nearly two columns as he answered a reader’s question: “What does it take to make a great pitcher.”³¹ The reader was asking one of the best. Andy Cooper is remembered as a smart pitcher, who knew the weaknesses of opposing batters and had the ability to exploit them with the accuracy of his pitches.³² The following quote is how Cooper introduced his answer to the reader’s question in 1934.

STOVE LEAGUE

BY ANDY COOPER,

KANSAS C MONARCH PITCHER

Besides ambition and hard work, it takes headwork, strategy and psychology. A pitcher should be able to tell as nearly as possible what the batter is thinking about doing. He [studies] the idiosyncrasies of individual batsmen. With these attainments may go a keen mentality, a quick thinking, scheming baseball brain and, yet, nature must richly endow a boy with talents that make a great pitcher. A shrewd and apt catcher can tremendously assist a pitcher. The main issue[:] a pitcher must practice control.

We may never learn what led Andy Cooper to Wichita, a connection that apparently began in 1917 and 1919 and continued through the 1930s. Sadly, Cooper's life was cut far too short in the spring of 1941, as he prepared to manage the Monarchs another season. He was only in his early 40s, but his heart was failing. Emma brought Andy back from Kansas City to her home in Waco, where he died on June 3. He was buried in Waco's Greenwood Cemetery. Sixty-five years later, Andy Cooper was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.³³ A journey from Texas that passed through Detroit, Kansas City, California, Cuba, the Far East, and Wichita.

Acknowledgements

Jan Johnson and Larry Lester provided valuable advice and information, including the entry from the Wichita city directory, articles from the *Chicago Defender*, and the photo on the cover. All other newspapers were accessed through Newspapers.com and GenealogyBank.com. Additional online sources are included in the endnotes.

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<i>Detroit (MI) Free Press</i>	<i>Waco (TX) News-Tribune</i>
<i>Eureka (KS) Herald</i>	<i>Wichita (KS) Beacon</i>
<i>Kansas City (MO) Star</i>	<i>Wichita (KS) Eagle</i>
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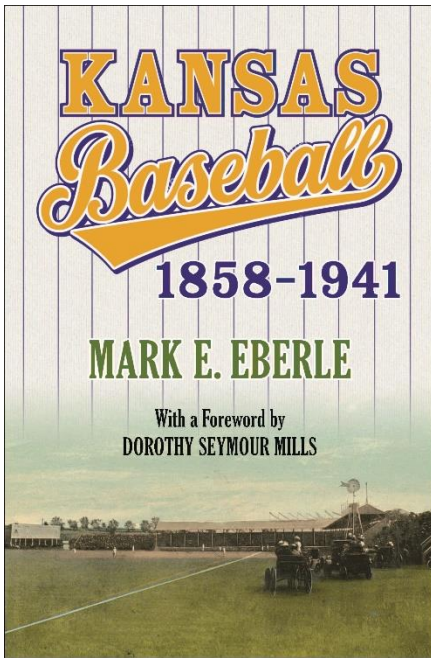
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¹ *Wichita Eagle*, 6 June 1928, p 16; 13 June 1928, p 13; 17 June 1928, p 14.

² *Topeka Plaindealer*, 19 May 1922, p 4. • *Wichita Eagle*, 29 June 1923, p 14; 30 June 1923, p 9. • *Wichita Negro Star*, 27 April 1923, p 1. • Seamheads.com, Negro Leagues Database, Tom Young,

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- ³ *Eureka Herald*, 5 April 1923, p 1. • *Wichita Eagle*, 9 April 1923, p 3; 23 April 1923, p 3. • *Wichita Negro Star*, 27 April 1923, p 1.
- ⁴ *Wichita Eagle*, 17 June 1928, p 14.
- ⁵ *Los Angeles Evening Express*, 5 January 1928, p 30.
- ⁶ Robert F. Darden, *In Search of Andy Cooper: The Hunt for Waco's Forgotten Baseball Hall of Famer*, <https://www.wacoan.com/in-search-of-andy-cooper/> (accessed 11 May 2021). • Ryan Whirly, *Andy Cooper, the Early Days?* <https://homeplatedontmove.wordpress.com/2016/03/24/andy-cooper-the-early-days/> (accessed 11 May 2021). • Baseball-Reference.com, *Andy Cooper*, <https://www.baseball-reference.com/register/player.fcgi?id=cooper00land> (accessed 11 May 2021). • Seamheads.com, Negro Leagues Database, *Andy Cooper*, <https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/player.php?playerID=coope0land> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- ⁷ The 1930 census for Freestone County, immediately east of Limestone County, includes a set of entries for an African American family consisting of Andrew Cooper, his wife Emma, their son Nathaniel, his mother Sarah, and his sister Rosie Bookman. At the time of the 1940 census, Andrew, Emma, and Nathaniel were living in Dallas. Despite the similarities in names and region of residence, it is not the baseball player. Details in census records were sometimes incorrect, but Emma was the ballplayers' mother, not his wife. In addition, the Andrew Cooper in the 1930 and 1940 censuses lived in Austin in 1910 with his parents and siblings. At the same time, the baseball player was living east of Waco with his mother Emma and his brothers Henry and Cornelius. Neither the ballplayer nor his census doppelganger was found in the 1920 census for Texas. In addition to this possible confusion, some references have conflated the early life of Andy Cooper with that of Alfred "Army" Cooper, another lefthanded pitcher with the Kansas City Monarchs in 1928–1930, who was born in Kansas City in November 1899 (1900 census).
- ⁸ The 1940 census for Waco listed Emma Cooper's address as 2603 South Ninth Street. This was the same address listed for Andy when he registered for the draft in 1918 (*Waco News-Tribune*, 28 June 1918, p 8 and draft registration card). In 1930, his brother Henry and Henry's wife, Annie (Anna), resided at 2304 South Seventh Street, but they moved to 2601 South Ninth Street before the 1940 census was conducted.
- ⁹ *Kansas City Star*, 25 April 1914, p 7; 21 May 1914, p 9. • *Kansas City Times*, 6 August 1914, p 9.
- ¹⁰ Seamheads.com, Negro Leagues Database, *Army Cooper*, <https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/player.php?playerID=coope0larm> (accessed 18 June 2021).
- ¹¹ *Wichita Beacon*, 19 July 1917, p 2; 21 July 1917, p 7. • *Wichita Eagle*, 14 July 1917, p 7; 20 July 1917, p 3; 21 July 1917, p 7; 22 July 1917, p 7.
- ¹² *Wichita Beacon*, 11 August 1917, p 9; 12 August 1917, p 7; 24 August 1917, p 11. • *Wichita Eagle*, 26 August 1917, p 7.
- ¹³ *Wichita Beacon*, 20 September 1917, p 7; 22 September 1917, p 7; 24 September 1917, p 7. • *Wichita Eagle*, 25 September 1917, p 7.
- ¹⁴ *Chicago Defender*, 21 June 1941, p 22. • *Kansas City Star*, 29 May 2016, p 6B. • *Waco News-Tribune*, 25 April 1938, p 8; 26 April 1938, p 7. • When the Kansas City Monarchs played the Chicago American Giants in an exhibition contest in Waco in April 1938, the *Waco News-Tribune* reported that Andy Cooper had pitched for the city's segregated A.J. Moore High School in 1918. This was not confirmed, but Cooper probably turned 21 in April 1918. Thus, it is possible the newspaper got the year wrong, and he played baseball for the high school in an earlier year. However, Cooper was not listed among the graduates of A.J. Moore High School in 1915 or 1916 (*Waco Morning News*, 5 June 1915, p 2; 28 May 1916, p 22). Following high school, he reportedly attended Paul Quinn College in Waco. This was not confirmed, but it might have conflicted with Cooper's military service at the end of World War I during the 1918–1919 academic year. However, it is possible he attended during the spring of 1919. He also might have attended the college in 1917–1918 or 1919–1920. Paul Quinn College is now located in Dallas.

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- ¹⁵ *Waco News-Tribune*, 6 June 1918, p 3; 28 June 1918, p 1, 3, 8. • *Wichita Negro Star*, 30 March 1934, p 3; 30 November 1934, p 5.
- ¹⁶ *Dallas Express*, 15 February 1919, p 4; 12 April 1919, p 11; 26 April 1919, p 10.
- ¹⁷ *Wichita Beacon*, 12 June 1919, p 7; 18 July 1919, p 7; 30 July 1919, p 7; 11 August 1919, p 7; 30 August 1919, p 7. • *Wichita Eagle*, 25 May 1919, p 10; 20 July 1919, p 7; 3 August 1919, p 2; 6 August 1919, p 7; 10 August 1919, p 9; 19 August 1919, p 7; 1 September 1919, p 2.
- ¹⁸ *Wichita Beacon*, 22 April 1919, p 10. • *Wichita Eagle*, 18 August 1919, p 2.
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- ²⁰ *Wichita Beacon*, 18 July 1919, p 7.
- ²¹ *Wichita Beacon*, 21 July 1919, p 7. • *Wichita Eagle*, 21 July 1919, p 2.
- ²² *Wichita Eagle*, 3 August 1919, p 2.
- ²³ *Wichita Beacon*, 30 August 1919, p 7.
- ²⁴ *Wichita Beacon*, 26 April 1935, p 18. • *Wichita Eagle*, 18 June 1928, p 2; 26 August 1929, p 7; 21 August 1933, p 7. • Seamheads.com, Negro Leagues Database, *Andy Cooper*, <https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/player.php?playerID=coope0land> and <https://www.seamheads.com/NegroLgs/manager.php?playerID=coope0land> (accessed 11 May 2021).
- ²⁵ *Wichita Eagle*, 10 June 1941, p 8. • Figueredo (2003, pages 151, 156, 159, 162, 179, 181, 485). • McNeil (2002, page 266). • Sayama and Staples (2019, page 352).
- ²⁶ *California Eagle*, 11 September 1931, p 7. • *Los Angeles Evening Express*, 5 January 1928, p 30. • *Los Angeles Times*, 9 September 1931, p 20. • *Wichita Negro Star*, 7 August 1931, p 3; 30 March 1934, p 3. • Findagrave.com, *Andrew Lewis “Coop” Cooper*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101490067/andrew-lewis-cooper> (accessed 19 May 2021). • The 1910 census recorded three-year-old Norine Adams living in Corsicana, Texas in April with her parents (Jodie and Katie Adams) and her siblings. The 1920 census reported 13-year-old Norine Gray living in Los Angeles in January with her mother (Katie Gray), stepfather (Charles Gray), and siblings. The April 1930 census showed 23-year-old Norine Cooper living in Los Angeles with her mother (Katy Adams), Andy Jr., and other family members. The intent to marry published in the *Los Angeles Evening Express* listed “Andrew Louis Cooper” (30) and “Norine Anna Gray” (21). The death notice for Norine in the *Los Angeles Times* listed her age as 25. Along with her age on the intent to marry, this suggests she was born in 1906. Prior to his marriage to Norine, Andy’s draft registration card in 1918 indicated he was married, but the name of his “nearest relative” was given only as “Mrs. A.L. Cooper (wife).” This suggests Norine was his second wife, and he married again after her death.
- ²⁷ *Wichita Negro Star*, 23 March 1934, p 3; 2 November 1934, p 5; 4 January 1935, p 3; 8 March 1935, p 4.
- ²⁸ *Detroit Free Press*, 23 July 2006, p 1D, 7D. • *Wichita Negro Star*, 1 November 1929, p 4; 8 March 1935, p 4; 10 July 1936, p 4.
- ²⁹ *Wichita Negro Star*, 16 March 1934, p 3; 23 March 1934, p 3; 30 March 1934, p 3; 6 April 1934, p 3; 13 April 1934, p 3; 20 April 1934, p 3; 27 April 1934, p 3; 4 May 1934, p 3. • Sayama and Staples (2019).
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You can learn more about the early history of baseball as played by local teams in Kansas in the book *Kansas Baseball, 1858–1941*, published in 2017 by the University Press of Kansas and available in paperback or e-book through bookstores and online retailers.

The book explores the early game played by hundreds of town teams composed of white males, as well as teams of women, African Americans, American Indians, and Mexican Americans. Also described are the regional minor leagues and major league tours, along with the histories of nine towns still playing baseball in the state’s oldest ballparks constructed between 1924 and 1940.