

= Oyster Burns =

Thomas P. " Oyster " Burns ( September 6 , 1864 ? November 11 , 1928 ) was a professional baseball player whose career spanned 15 seasons , 11 of which were spent with the Major League Baseball ( MLB ) Wilmington Quicksteps ( 1884 ) , Baltimore Orioles ( 1884 ? 85 , 1887 ? 88 ) , Brooklyn Bridegrooms ( 1888 ? 95 ) , and New York Giants ( 1895 ) . Burns , who predominately played as an outfielder , also played as a shortstop , second baseman , third baseman and as a pitcher . Over his career , Burns compiled a career batting average of .300 with 870 runs scored , 1 @ , @ 392 hits , 224 doubles , 129 triples , 65 home runs , and 834 runs batted in ( RBI ) in 1 @ , @ 188 games played . Although the majority of his career was spent in the major leagues , Burns also played in minor league baseball . He made his MLB debut at the age of 19 and was listed as standing 5 feet 8 inches ( 173 cm ) and weighing 183 pounds ( 83 kg ) .

Burns , nicknamed " Oyster " because he sold shellfish in the off @ - @ season , was described as a " loudmouth " and having " an irritating voice and personality " . Nevertheless , Burns led the Bridegrooms to an American Association championship in 1889 and a National League pennant in 1890 . After retiring from baseball , Burns died on November 11 , 1928 in Brooklyn , New York .

= = Biography = =

Thomas P. Burns was born on September 6 , 1864 , in Philadelphia . His parents , Patrick and Mary Burns , were both Irish immigrants .

In 1883 , Burns began his professional baseball career as a pitcher with Harrisburg of the minor @ - @ league Interstate Association . On the year , Burns posted an earned run average ( ERA ) of 2 @ . @ 30 over 20 games pitched , 15 of which were starts . When he wasn ' t pitching , Burns played second and third base .

Burns began the 1884 season playing for the Wilmington Quicksteps , but left the team after they joined the Union Association , and joined the Baltimore Orioles . Burns ? the youngest player on the Orioles and the seventh youngest player in the American Association ? batted .298 . Despite playing in only 35 games on the season , Burns recorded a team @ - @ leading six home runs over 141 plate appearances . He continued his career with the Orioles in 1885 , batting .231 with five home runs and 37 RBI , and pitching to a 7 ? 4 win ? loss record . His offensive struggles led him to be demoted to the Newark Domestics for the 1886 season , where he helped the Domestics win the Eastern League pennant . By 1887 , Burns had reentered the majors for the Orioles and became the team captain until he threw a baseball at an opposing pitcher following a groundout ; he was later fined \$ 25 ( \$ 658 in 2011 ) . On the season , he recorded nine home runs ? good for third in the American Association . Burns 's 19 triples were enough to tie him with five others for the league lead , and his 140 games played were tied for the league lead with teammate Blondie Purcell .

After playing in 79 games for Baltimore , Burns was transferred to the Brooklyn Bridegrooms by Harry Von der Horst , the owner of both clubs . While he was playing for the Bridegrooms , the New York Clipper described Burns as " the noisiest man that ever played on the Brooklyn team . His voice reminds one of a buzz @ - @ saw . " Burns remained with the Bridegrooms for the 1889 season . He recorded team highs in on @ - @ base percentage , batting average , and home runs hit while the Bridegrooms , with an 89 ? 48 record , became American Association champions . In the World Series , the Bridegrooms played the New York Giants of the National League . Burns hit a three @ - @ run home run to win the fourth game of the series , giving Brooklyn a 3 ? 1 series lead . However , the Giants would take the World Series after winning five straight games .

In 1890 , the Bridegrooms had moved to the National League . Burns , now 26 , led the league in home runs ( 13 ) and RBI ( 128 ) . He hit for the cycle on August 1 , 1890 ? becoming the first Bridegroom to do so . The team won the National League pennant , and faced the Louisville Colonels in the 1890 World Series . The series ended in a 3 ? 3 ? 1 tie : bad weather led to the cancellation of more games . After the 1891 season , Burns 's 1892 RBI total was third in the league , and his hits , doubles , triples , and batting average marks were the second highest on the Brooklyn team , now named the Grooms . In 1893 , between games of a doubleheader , a

teammate of Burns , Tom Daly , was sleeping in center field when Burns stabbed Daly with a penknife . Daly awoke and turned on the knife , leading to a severed tendon which kept Daly out for two weeks . Burns ' 1894 batting average ( .355 ) was the highest of his career ; his hit and run totals were also the second highest in his career . Burns continued to play for the club until 1895 , when he played for the New York Giants . In his final MLB year , Burns batted a combined .258 over 25 games .

After the 1895 season , Burns 's contract was purchased by the minor @-@ league Newark Colts . The Colts would win the Atlantic League division with an 82 ? 61 record , two games above the Hartford Bluebirds . The next season , Burns served as a player @-@ coach for the Bluebirds , where he led the team in doubles and batting average . In his final managerial year , Burns coached Portland , Maine of the New England League .

After retiring from baseball , Burns lived in Brooklyn until his death on November 11 , 1928 . He was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington , New Jersey .