

= Tom Kinslow =

Thomas F. Kinslow (January 12 , 1866 ? February 22 , 1901) was a professional baseball player who played catcher in Major League Baseball (MLB) from 1886 until 1898 . He played for eight teams in his ten @-@ season career . Four of those seasons were with Brooklyn Bridegrooms of the National League (NL) . During his playing days , his height was listed at 5 @-@ foot @-@ 10 @-@ inch (1 @. @ 78 m) , his weight as 160 @-@ pound (73 kg) , he batted and threw right @-@ handed , and had blonde hair .

He was a member of the Washington Light Infantry , a local Washington , D.C. militia , and played in many of their amateur baseball games throughout his life . When not playing , he tended to his bar . Noted for being a genial , friendly individual , he was quick to make friends , and was a fan @-@ favorite in his hometown of Washington , D.C. Kinslow was a heavy drinker however , which caused him to miss games and team movements on occasion . Late into his career , these alcohol issues were much less tolerated , eventually hastening his exit from the game . He died at the age of 35 , after a year @-@ long battle with tuberculosis .

= = Early life = =

Thomas Kinslow was born on January 12 , 1866 in Washington , D.C. ; his father Michael worked as a laborer and an ice dealer , later working in the oyster business . He began playing amateur baseball in the city 's first ward on a team known as the " Quicks " , as well as a team named the Falcons . He later became a member of the Washington Light Infantry , Company C , a local militia , and played as their catcher against the 5th Maryland Regiment on June 29 , 1885 ; a game won by Washington 11 ? 7 .

= = Baseball career = =

= = = Early career = = =

Kinslow made his MLB debut with the Washington Nationals of the NL on June 4 , 1886 as their starting catcher . He injured his finger in the third inning trying to catch a bad pitch thrown by Bob Barr , and had to leave the game . On June 15 , he was again injured by a Barr pitch , and forced to leave the game with a dislocated finger . He played in three games for the Nationals in 1886 , collecting two hits in eight at bats .

In 1887 , he was signed by the Peanut Eaters of the Pennsylvania State Association , and played in 36 games before being sold to the Detroit Wolverines of the NL , along with Ed Beatin for \$ 1 @, @ 000 on July 27 . Soon , the deal was put on hold by the NL , as the Cincinnati Red Stockings of the American Association (AA) also claimed they had a deal in place for these players . On September 6 , an arbitration board for the NL and AA leagues convened to render their findings . They found that Detroit 's contract with the players was dated on July 20 , which superseded Cincinnati 's contract that was signed on July 27 , and awarded Detroit the players . Detroit then sold their contracts with the players to the London Tecumsehs of the International Association . Though he did not play for London in 1887 , he did play in two games for the New York Metropolitans of the AA , going hitless in eight at bats .

= = = Brooklyn = = =

Kinslow played the next two seasons for the Tecumsehs , and had a batting average of .200 in 1888 , but improved it to .343 in 1889 . In 1890 , a new league was created , the Players ' League (PL) , and he signed with Ward 's Wonders of Brooklyn . During the season , he had a batting average of .264 , and caught 64 games . On June 28 , he hit the first home run of his career in a game against Henry Gruber and the Cleveland Infants . Later , on July 11 , he hit two home runs in

the same game off of George Keefe of the Buffalo Bisons , the only time Kinslow would achieve this feat .

The PL folded following the 1890 season , and Kinslow stayed in Brooklyn by signing with the Brooklyn Bridegrooms of the NL . He followed John Montgomery Ward , who was hired as team 's new manager . Shortly afterwards , Kinslow 's services were kept exclusive as the team listed him among those players covered under the reserve clause . During the game on July 8 , Kinslow was benched by Ward for what was described as insubordination . Kinslow played in 61 games for Brooklyn in 1891 , being platooned primarily at catcher with Con Daily , and had a .237 batting average .

In 1892 , he continued to platoon with Daily and played in 66 games . He improved his batting average to .305 , and hit two home runs . With a third catcher , Tom Daly , no longer with the team in 1893 , Kinslow 's playing time increased slightly to 78 games . His batting average dropped to .244 , but he tied his career @-@ high with four home runs . Although he was popular player during his time in Brooklyn , Kinslow had caused trouble with the team at some point in the season , and had been restricted from playing in home games by owner Charles Byrne . Upon signing his contract with Brooklyn in 1894 , Kinslow wrote a letter to the owner apologizing for his conduct during the previous season , and vowed to improve significantly going forward . His batting average improved to .305 during the 1894 season while playing in 62 games , sharing time with Daily once again .

= = = Late career = = =

On January 26 , 1895 , Kinslow was traded by Brooklyn to the Pittsburgh Pirates for Ad Gumbert . The Red Stockings quickly disputed the deal however , claiming that they had an earlier agreement with Pittsburgh 's manager Connie Mack that would have brought them Gumbert and Buck Weaver in exchange for Billy Merritt . Despite the dispute , the Brooklyn deal went forward , and Kinslow joined the Pirates . With the catching duties being split between Merritt and Joe Sugden , there was little playing time allotted for Kinslow ; Kinslow 's behavior had become a problem for Mack and the Pirates . Once , he was fined for missing a game due to drinking , and in late May , he was suspended for failing to show up for a game in Washington , D.C. On June 22 , he failed to be ready for a road series , and was released from the team for disorderly conduct . Kinslow expressed sorrow and shock over getting released , claiming that while he drank too much , Brooklyn would issue fines for his behavior instead . In 19 games played for Pittsburgh , he had a .226 batting average , Though he had received interest from Cincinnati and the Washington Senators , he claimed that he wanted to take the remainder the year off to be ready for the next season .

During the off @-@ season , Kinslow tended to the bar he owned in Washington , D.C. , mainly passing time opening oysters and clams , and playing games for the Washington Light Infantry . On May 21 , it was reported that he had agreed to play for the Louisville Colonels of the NL . In eight games for the Colonels , Kinslow collected seven hits in 25 at bats for a .280 batting average . After playing very little in 1896 , and not at all in 1897 , he signed with the Senators for the 1898 season . He admitted that his weight had increased to 225 lbs during the time off from the game , but would quickly drop his weight to 160 once he began playing . He appeared in three games for Washington until he was sold to the St. Louis Browns on August 18 . He played in an additional 14 games for St. Louis , and was released from the team at the conclusion of the season . In his 380 career games played , he had a .266 batting average , 12 home runs , and 222 runs batted in .

= = Personal life = =

Kinslow was known to have a genial , sunny disposition , and was quick to make friends . In the 1900 United States Census , he living with his father and working as an oyster dealer . He is listed as being married for ten years , but his wife was not living in the same home . He died in his hometown of Washington , D.C. after a year @-@ long battle with consumption (tuberculosis) , and is interred at Congressional Cemetery .