

## Black Baseball Poem by enidpickett

Who would think that tea started  
The National Negro Baseball League?  
Tea. hot off the presses.  
Tea. Black like its ink.  
Tea. served daily on pages  
Of the local Cleveland Gazette newspaper.  
Sweet Tea for your eyes to drink.  
Tea that became the talk of the town.  
A local newspaper man had the original recipe.  
He served it hot from the hills of Ohio,  
The Cleveland Gazette.  
Mr. Walter S. Brown.  
A man of wise words and wealth.  
He followed his dream during nightmarish times.  
He defied the odds and dared death on the daily.  
A man whose hot tea birthed Black Baseball.  
Mr. Walter S. Brown – The First president and secretary  
To our country's Inaugural  
Colored Base Ball League.  
Back in 1887.  
Who would think that hot tea and three strikes,  
Would become America's favorite pastime?  
Who would think how Ebony Sweet tea  
Tasty and chilled with the cruelty and cold killings of Jim Crow.  
Printed on segregated pages  
Would make Black folks flock to parks  
To pay to see  
The world's greatest athletes.  
Hit home runs,  
Slide into first base,  
And catch fouls.  
Who knew this tea would become the  
World famous National Colored Baseball League?  
**AKA National Negro Baseball League.**  
Mr. Walter S. Brown  
His legendary league of  
Eight ebony teams  
Each team named after their hometown and their homemade segregation.  
The Baltimore Lord Baltimores,  
The Louisville Falls Citys,  
The New York Gorhams,  
The Philadelphia Pythians,  
And let us not forget  
The Pittsburgh Keystones,  
The Washington Capital Citys,  
And The Cincinnati Browns.  
Who knew that this tea would become the  
Nucleus for today's Baseball Leagues and Liberation.  
Eight Original Onyx Recipes  
Homegrown and harvested from

Black Tea and Black Intelligencia in 1887.  
The Black Elite cheered properly in parks with picnics.  
Women held umbrellas from the color-line rays of the sun.  
Who knew they would become the first fans  
Of this new trendy sport?  
Baseball's Black Bourgeoisie.  
Patrons. Loyal die-hard fans would sip tea and cheer for their favorite player.  
So, today we celebrate them and say their names,  
We Honor their lives.  
We Celebrate their history.  
Presenting The Premiere & Paramount Black Hall of Famers of Baseball.  
Sol White,  
Frank Grant,  
Oscar Jackson,  
Andrew Jackson  
Robert Jackson  
William Malone  
John Nelson  
William Selde  
Windsor Terrill  
John Vactor  
Weldy Walker Thomas  
and James W. Wilson.  
Today, we remember you. Your names will not be forgotten.  
Dirt diamond shaped fields whisper your names in awe  
Holding on to your history and your gold medals for  
The Highest Batting Average and The Highest Fielding Percentage.  
Thanks to you **all**  
We have a legacy of Black Baseball  
Thanks to you **all**  
Black Baseball has Sankofa its way into our culture forever.  
Thanks to you **all**  
Black Baseball shares its tea with players from all over the world.

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