

The following article was originally published in PFRA's 1982 Annual and has long been out of print. Because of numerous requests, we reprint it here. Some small changes in wording have been made to reflect new information discovered since this article's original publication.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FRANCHISE TRANSACTIONS

By Joe Horrigan

The following is a chronological presentation of the franchise transactions of the National Football League from 1920 until 1949. The study begins with the first league organizational meeting held on August 20, 1920 and ends at the January 21, 1949 league meeting.

The purpose of the study is to present the date when each N.F.L. franchise was granted, the various transactions that took place during its membership years, and the date at which it was no longer considered a league member.

The study is presented in a yearly format with three sections for each year. The sections are: the Franchise and Team lists section, the Transaction Date section, and the Transaction Notes section.

The Franchise and Team lists section lists the franchises and teams that were at some point during that year operating as league members. A comparison of the two lists will show that not all N.F.L. franchises fielded N.F.L. teams at all times.

The Transaction Dates section provides the appropriate date at which a franchise transaction took place. Only those transactions that can be date-verified will be listed in this section. An asterisk preceding a franchise name in the Franchise list refers the reader to the Transaction Dates section for the appropriate information.

The Transaction Notes section is used to offer a further explanation of a transaction date, as well as other pertinent information that cannot be date-documented. The reader is referred to the Transaction Notes section through the use of reference numbers.

Though it is recognized that the N.F.L. was originally known as the "American Professional Football Association," in an effort to keep the terminology of this study consistent, only the terms "league" or "N.F.L." will be used.

1920

FRANCHISE	TEAM
*AKRON	PROS
*DECATUR (1)	STALEYS
*BUFFALO	ALL-AMERICANS
*ROCK ISLAND	INDEPENDENTS
*DAYTON	TRIANGLES
*CHICAGO (2)	CARDINALS
*CANTON	BULLDOGS
DETROIT (3) (6)	HERALDS
*CLEVELAND	INDIANS
CHICAGO (4)	TIGERS
*ROCHESTER	JEFFERSONS
*MUNCIE	FLYERS
*HAMMOND	PROS
COLUMBUS (4)	PANHANDLES
*MASSILLON (5)	

TRANSACTION DATES

8/20/20 Akron granted a franchise.

9/17/20 Decatur granted a franchise.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

8/20/20 Buffalo granted a franchise.
9/17/20 Rock Island granted a franchise.
8/20/20 Dayton granted a franchise.
9/17/20 Chicago (Cardinals) granted a franchise.
8/20/20 Canton granted a franchise.
8/20/20 Cleveland granted a franchise.
8/20/20 Rochester granted a franchise.
9/17/20 Muncie granted a franchise.
8/20/20 Hammond granted a franchise.
9/17/20 Massillon granted a franchise.
9/17/20 Massillon withdraws for the 1920 season.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The Buffalo management did not attend the Aug. 20, meeting, but sent a letter to the meeting indicating a desire to be considered a member. Rochester and Hammond also sent letters, but unlike Buffalo, they did attend the later (Sept. 17) organizational meeting.

(2) Though by the end of the 1920 season the Chicago team was known as the Cardinals, it was earlier known as the Racine Cardinals.

(3) The Canton Daily News reported on Oct. 2, 1920 that Canton Bulldogs manager Ralph Hay announced that the Detroit Herald's management had sent him a letter expressing their intention to join the league.

(4) No specific date is available as to when these teams joined the league. It is known that the Chicago Tigers disbanded their team at the end of the 1920 season. It is assumed that their franchise was then cancelled.

(5) The Sept. 17, 1920 meeting minutes list Massillon as being present when in fact they were not. Massillon was listed in hopes that the 1919 management might field a team at a later date. Word was sent to the meeting by the Massillon management that they did not intend to operate during the season of 1920. By listing the representatives as present, the door was left open for the group to field a team in 1921. The move also halted an attempt by another group to take over the Massillon operation. With the strong teams of the area all belonging to the league and on record as being in support of the 1919 management, the group abandoned their take-over plans.

(6) Though no specific date is available, the Detroit team disbanded at the season's end, and the franchise is assumed to have been cancelled.

1 9 2 1

FRANCHISE	TEAMS
DECATUR (1)	CHICAGO STALEYS
*BUFFALO (2)	ALL-AMERICANS
AKRON	PROS
*GREEN BAY	PACKERS
CANTON	BULLDOGS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
*ROCK ISLAND (3)	INDEPENDENTS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
CLEVELAND	INDIANS
ROCHESTER	JEFFERSONS
*DETROIT	TIGERS
COLUMBUS	PANHANDLES
CINCINNATI (4)	CELTS
*EVANSVILLE (5)	
LOUISVILLE (5)	
HAMMOND (5)	
MUNCIE (5)	
*MINNEAPOLIS (5)	
*TONAWANDA (6)	
*TOLEDO (7)	
WASHINGTON (8)	
NEW YORK (9)	

TRANSACTION DATES

8/27/21 F.J. McNeil, manager of the Buffalo All-Americans, granted a franchise.
8/27/21 Green Bay granted a franchise.
6/18/21 Rock Island granted a franchise.
6/18/21 Detroit granted a franchise.
8/27/21 Evansville granted a franchise.
8/27/21 Minneapolis granted a franchise.
8/27/21 Tonawanda granted a franchise.
6/18/21 Toledo granted a franchise.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) Though the team played in Chicago and was known as the Chicago Staleys, the franchise was still officially on record as the Decatur franchise.

(2) Although the Buffalo team operated as a league franchise in 1920, the Aug. 27, 1921 league meeting minutes record that "franchise be granted to F.J. McNeil, manager of the Buffalo All-American team." A possible reason that the franchise is granted in 1921 is that since Buffalo representatives had not attended any of the 1920 league meetings, the 1921 action was just a formality.

A more likely and more complicated possibility involves the non-league Philadelphia Quakers. During the season of 1920, Buffalo players would play with the Quakers on Saturday and the league member All-Americans on Sunday. In April of 1921, the league ruled that no player could play on two teams in the same week. When Philadelphia indicated in 1921 that they would like to join the league, F.J. McNeil advised his players that their double dipping would have to cease. Rather than lose his players to a league member Quakers, he convinced Philadelphia to withdraw its application. If the Quakers were not league members, they would not have to adhere to the league rule prohibiting the double dipping. The granting of a franchise to McNeil was a clarification as to which franchise, Buffalo or Philadelphia, was to be considered a league franchise.

(3) Rock Island was a member of the league in 1920, so the reissuing of a franchise in 1921 suggests that the franchise made some kind of ownership transfer.

(4) For many years the Cincinnati Celts were listed in the N.F.L.'s official standings as having compiled a won-loss record of 0-8-0 for the season of 1921. Although this study is not concerned with the standings over the years, this one deserves mention, as it relates to a future Transaction Note. According to the best available information, the Celts played only four league games, compiling a record of 1-3-0. The one victory was against the Muncie Flyers. Muncie, which is not recognized in the official league standings, was a league member at the time. However, if you eliminate the Muncie game from the Celts record, it would be 0-3-0. The similar appearance between 0-3-0 and 0-8-0 is obvious. Could it be the league long recognized a typographical error?

(5) Until a revision in the 1980s, the official N.F.L. team standings for 1921 omitted nine league franchises. This note will attempt to explain five of these omissions, with the remaining four explained in later notes. The omission of Evansville, Louisville, Hammond, Muncie and Minneapolis are explained in The Official N.F.L. Encyclopedic History of Professional Football this way: "Five teams who dropped out of the league early had their records stricken, unfairly or not, from the league standings."

Of the five, only Muncie actually dropped out of the league -- after only two league games, one against Cincinnati and one against Evansville. The remaining four teams played full schedules and completed the 1921 season. The only difference between the five omitted teams and the other league teams is that the omitted teams played less than six league games. The only exception to this was Cincinnati, which the league insisted played eight league games, although they could not offer dates or opponents.

It is apparent that the league, which decided its championship on the percentage basis, required a minimum number of games to be played in order for a team to be in championship consideration. If this minimum was not met, there was no reason for that team to be listed in the standings, which was the order of finish of league teams in the race for the league championship. In other words, the omitted teams were league franchises in 1921 and did field league teams that did play league games, but they did not appear in the standings because the number of games did not meet the league minimum.

(6) Tonawanda, according to the best available information, played only one league game. The reasons offered in Transaction Note (5) explain their omission from the league standings.

(7) Toledo was granted a league franchise and was to be operated by Jim Thorpe and baseball Hall of Famer Roger Bresnahan. At the time the franchise was granted, the applicants indicated they would operate a team during the season of 1921. A team was never fielded and the franchise is assumed to have been cancelled.

(8) No specific date is available as to when Washington was granted a franchise. However, at the Jan. 28, 1922 league meeting, Washington is ordered to pay a delinquent bill incurred during the 1921

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

season or "forfeit its membership in the Association." It is fairly safe to assume that a franchise must first be granted before it can be forfeited.

(9) Though no specific date can be cited as to when New York became a league member, the team, known as the Giants, did compete against other league members but its games were too few to appear in the official standings. (See Note (4).) The franchise was cancelled by the league in 1923. It is also fairly safe to assume that a franchise must first be granted before it can be cancelled.

1922

FRANCHISE	TEAM
CANTON	BULLDOGS
*CHICAGO (1)	BEARS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*TOLEDO (2)	MAROONS
ROCK ISLAND	INDEPENDENTS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
*GREEN BAY (3)	PACKERS
*RACINE	CARDINALS
AKRON	PROS
BUFFALO	ALL-AMERICANS
*MILWAUKEE	BADGERS
*LaRUE	OORANG INDIANS
MINNEAPOLIS	MARINES
EVANSVILLE (4)	CRIMSON-GIANTS
LOUISVILLE	BRECKS
ROCHESTER	JEFFERSONS
HAMMOND	PROS
COLUMBUS	PANHANDLES
*PHILADELPHIA (5)	
*YOUNGSTOWN (5)	
MUNCIE (6)	
CINCINNATI (6)	
*NEW HAVEN (7)	
CLEVELAND	
TONAWANDA (6)	
WASHINGTON (6)	
NEW YORK (6)	
DETROIT (6)	

TRANSACTION DATES

1/28/22 Chicago granted a franchise.
8/20/22 Toledo granted a franchise.
1/28/22 Green Bay withdraws franchise.
6/24/22 Green Bay granted a franchise.
6/24/22 Racine granted a franchise.
6/24/22 Milwaukee granted a franchise.
6/24/22 LaRue granted a franchise.
1/28/22 Philadelphia granted a franchise.
6/24/22 Youngstown granted a franchise.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) On January 28, 1922, Chicago was granted another franchise in the names of George Halas and Edward Sternaman. The team was actually the team that had operated as the Chicago Staleys in 1921 and the Decatur Staleys in 1920. The franchise during those two years was officially held by A.E. Staley, but the team had been managed by Halas.

(2) The Toledo franchise was granted to Bill Harley, who seven months earlier lost his bid to operate the Chicago franchise granted to Halas and Sternaman.

(3) After admitting to having used players with remaining college eligibility during the 1921 season, the Green Bay management submitted a formal apology and withdrew from the league. Five months later, after a realignment of ownership, Green Bay reapplied for and was granted a franchise.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

(4) The Evansville Crimson-Giants team disbanded at the end of the 1922 season and the franchise is assumed to have been cancelled.

(5) The Philadelphia and Youngstown franchises did not field teams during the 1922 season and their franchises are assumed to have been cancelled.

(6) The Muncie, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Tonawanda, Washington, New York and Detroit franchises were cancelled by the league for failure to post the necessary league fees for the season of 1922. Even though New York and Washington fielded teams during that season, it is not likely any of these franchises were considered league members in 1922.

(7) Although New Haven applied for a league franchise on Jan. 27, 1922 and had that same franchise cancelled on Jan. 20, 1923, it is unlikely that the team could be considered a league member. The franchise was cancelled for failure to post the necessary league fees for the season of 1922. That would have made the team ineligible for league competition. The franchise nonetheless was granted by the league. It is listed here because the purpose of this study is to identify those cities that were granted league franchises.

1923

FRANCHISE	TEAM
CANTON	BULLDOGS
CHICAGO	BEARS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
MILWAUKEE	BADGERS
*CLEVELAND	INDIANS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*DULUTH	KELLEYS
BUFFALO	ALL-AMERICANS
COLLUMBUS	PANHANDLES
RACINE	LEGION
TOLEDO	MAROONS
ROCK ISLAND	INDEPENDENTS
MINNEAPOLIS	MARINES
*ST. LOUIS	ALL-STARS
HAMMOND	PROS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
AKRON	PROS
LaRUE	OORANG INDIANS
ROCHESTER	JEFFERSONS
LOUISVILLE	BRECKS

TRANSACTION DATES

7/28/23 St. Louis granted a franchise.

7/28/23 Cleveland granted a franchise.

7/28/23 Duluth granted a franchise.

TRANSACTION NOTES

During the season of 1923, all N.F.L. franchise holders operated league teams.

1924

FRANCHISE	TEAM
*CLEVELAND (1)	BULLDOGS
CHICAGO	BEARS
*FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
DULUTH	KELLEYS
ROCK ISLAND	INDEPENDENTS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
*BUFFALO	BISONS
RACINE	LEGION
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
COLUMBUS	PANHANDLES
HAMMOND	PROS

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

MILWAUKEE	BADGERS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
*KANSAS CITY	BLUES
AKRON	PROS
KENOSHA (2)	MAROONS
MINNEAPOLIS	MARINES
ROCHESTER	JEFFERSONS
LOUISVILLE (3)	
*LaRUE	
*ST. LOUIS	
*TOLEDO (2)	

TRANSACTION DATES

8/ 3/24 Cleveland franchise owner, Sam Deutsch, purchases Canton franchise and Bulldog team.
7/25/24 Frankford granted a franchise.
7/26/24 Buffalo franchise transferred from F.J. McNeil to Warren Patterson and T.F. Hughitt and the team name is changed to Bisons.
1/26/24 Kansas City granted a franchise.
7/25/24 LaRue franchise suspends operations for one year with league permission.
7/25/24 St. Louis franchise is cancelled by the league.
7/25/24 Toledo franchise is ordered by the league either to transfer the franchise or suspend operations for one year.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) Sam Deutsch, owner of the Cleveland franchise, purchased the Canton franchise and team. He combined the best players of both teams to represent his Cleveland franchise, while keeping the Canton franchise inactive. His original plan was to sell the Canton franchise and remaining players back to interested parties in Canton. That deal, however, did not materialize.

(2) Although there is no specific date available as to when Kenosha was officially granted membership in the league, it does appear possible that it was actually a transfer of the Toledo franchise. Toledo did not operate in 1924 and there are many similarities in the player rosters of the two teams.

(3) Though there is no indication in the league meeting minutes that Louisville requested to suspend operations for the 1924 or 1925 seasons, they do not field a team, yet continue to be represented at the league meetings.

1 9 2 5

FRANCHISE	TEAM
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*POTTSVILLE (1)	MAROONS
*DETROIT	PANTHERS
*NEW YORK	GIANTS
AKRON	PROS
FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
CHICAGO	BEARS
ROCK ISLAND	INDEPENDENTS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
*PROVIDENCE	STEAM ROLLER
*CANTON (2)	BULLDOGS
*CLEVELAND	BULLDOGS
KANSAS CITY	COWBOYS
HAMMOND	PROS
BUFFALO	BISONS
DULUTH	KELLEYS
*ROCIESTER	JEFFERSONS
MILWAUKEE	BADGERS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
COLUMBUS	TIGERS
MINNEAPOLIS	
LOUISVILLE	
RACINE (3)	

TRANSACTION DATES

- 8/ 1/25 Pottsville granted a franchise.
- 12/12/25 Pottsville franchise is suspended.
- 8/ 1/25 Detroit granted a franchise.
- 8/ 1/25 New York granted a franchise.
- 8/ 1/25 Providence granted a franchise.
- 8/ 1/25 Canton franchise transferred from Sam Deutsch to Canton Professional Football Co.
- 8/ 1/25 Cleveland franchise transferred from Sam Deutsch to Herbert Brandt and Company.
- 1/24/25 Rochester franchise transferred to Rochester Football Association, E. Schlegel, President.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The Pottsville franchise was suspended for violating the territorial rights of another franchise after repeated warnings from the league.

(2) Sam Deutsch, holder of the inactive Canton franchise, sold the franchise and team to the Canton Professional Football Company for \$3000, twice the amount he had paid for it a year earlier.

(3) Although no specific date is available, the Racine franchise management notified the league just after the beginning of the 1925 season that it was unable to field a team. N.F.L. President Joe Carr informed the league members at their Feb. 6, 1926 meeting that when he received word of the Racine team's difficulty, he was also informed that the Racine management had elected to forfeit their franchise.

1 9 2 6

FRANCHISE	TEAM
FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
CHICAGO	BEARS
*POTTSVILLE (1)	MAROONS
KANSAS CITY	COWBOYS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
*LOS ANGELES	BUCCANEERS
NEW YORK	GIANTS
DULUTH	ESKIMOS
BUFFALO	RANGERS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
PROVIDENCE	STEAM ROLLER
DETROIT	PANTHERS
*HARTFORD	BLUES
*BROOKLYN	LIONS
*MILWAUKEE (2)	BADGERS
AKRON	INDIANS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
*RACINE (3)	LEGION
COLUMBUS	TIGERS
CANTON (3)	BULLDOGS
HAMMOND	PROS
LOUISVILLE (4)	COLONELS
*ROCHESTER	
*ROCK ISLAND (5)	
*MINNEAPOLIS	
*CLEVELAND	

TRANSACTION DATES

- 7/10/26 Pottsville is conditionally, reinstated in the league.
- 7/11/26 Los Angeles granted a franchise.
- 7/10/26 Hartford granted a franchise.
- 7/10/26 Brooklyn granted a franchise.
- 7/11/26 Milwaukee franchise is transferred from A.L. McGurk to J. Bryan.
- 7/10/26 Racine readmitted to membership.
- 7/10/26 Rochester suspends operations for one year with league permission.
- 7/11/26 Rock Island suspends operations for one year with league permission.
- 7/11/26 Minneapolis suspends operations for one year with league permission.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

7/11/26 Cleveland suspends operations for one year with league permission.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The executive committee of the league, after being petitioned by the Pottsville management, conditionally reinstated the Pottsville franchise.

(2) The transfer of the Milwaukee franchise was the result of a league directive ordering A.L. McGurk to dispose of his franchise assets and retire from the league, as a result of his allowing four high school boys to play on the Milwaukee team in one game.

(3) The Canton and Racine teams disbanded at the end of the 1926 season and their franchises are assumed to have been cancelled.

(4) The Louisville franchise operated out of Chicago during the 1926 season.

(5) After receiving permission to suspend operations for one year, the Rock Island franchise jumped leagues and joined the recently-formed American Football League.

1927

FRANCHISE	TEAM
NEW YORK	GIANTS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
CHICAGO	BEARS
CLEVELAND	BULLDOGS
PROVIDENCE	STEAM ROLLER
*NEW YORK	YANKEES
FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
POTTSVILLE (1)	MAROONS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
DULUTH	ESKIMOS
BUFFALO	BISONS
*COLUMBUS	
*LOUISVILLE	
*LOS ANGELES	
*MINNEAPOLIS	
*AKRON	
*BROOKLYN	
*DETROIT	
*KANSAS CITY (2)	
*MILWAUKEE	
*ROCHESTER	
*HARTFORD	
*HAMMOND	
*ROCK ISLAND	

TRANSACTION DATES

9/4/27 Brooklyn franchise transferred to New York Yankees.

7/16/27 Columbus suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Louisville suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Minneapolis suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Los Angeles suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Akron suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Brooklyn given permission to suspend operations for one year, but transfers franchise to New York (Yankees) on 9/4/27.

7/16/27 Detroit suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Kansas City suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Milwaukee suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Rochester is again given permission to suspend operations for one year.

7/16/27 Hartford suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/16/27 Hammond suspends operations for one year with league permission.

2/5/27 Rock Island franchise is forfeited to the league.

TRANSACTION NOTES

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

(1) Pottsville's probation was lifted and they were restored as a member in good status on Feb. 5, 1927.

(2) Though no specific date is available, the Kansas City Cowboys apparently disbanded as a team, as evidenced by the fact that several of their players' contracts were sold. A player's contract could not be sold unless a team was disbanding, according to the guidelines established in the 1927 reorganization plan. (See note below.)

On April 23, 1927, the National Football League called a special meeting at Cleveland to consider proposals for reorganization of the league. At this meeting it was decided that in order to reduce the number of league teams and franchises, selected franchise holders would be given the option of retiring from the league or suspending operations. While inactive, a franchise could be sold, providing the prospective buyer was approved by the league, and the players could be sold, providing that the franchise disbanded its team. If a franchise elected to retire from the league, it would be given its prorated share of the league treasury. The sale of or reactivation of a suspended franchise had to be completed by July 7, 1928 or the franchise would be considered cancelled. The league did promise that it would not admit any new franchises until all those suspended had been sold or cancelled.

1928

FRANCHISE	TEAM
PROVIDENCE	STEAM ROLLER
FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
*DETROIT (1)	WOLVERINES
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
CHICAGO	BEARS
NEW YORK	GIANTS
NEW YORK	YANKEES
POTTSVILLE	MAROONS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
*CLEVELAND	
*DULUTH	
*LOS ANGELES	
BUFFALO (2)	

TRANSACTION DATES

8/17/28 Detroit granted a franchise.

8/12/28 Cleveland suspends operations for one year with league permission.

8/12/28 Duluth suspends operations for one year with league permission.

8/12/28 Los Angeles withdraws from the league.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) Since the 1927 league reorganization plan allowed suspended franchises to transfer ownership provided the new owner was approved, it is likely that the Detroit franchise of 1928 was merely a transfer of the '27 franchise.

(2) Buffalo failed to field a team for the 1928 season.

The remaining franchises that suspended operations with league permission, namely the franchises in Columbus, Minneapolis, Louisville, Akron, Milwaukee, Rochester, Hartford and Hammond, were cancelled, since none were sold, readmitted or extended in their suspension by the July 7, 1928 date.

1929

FRANCHISE	TEAM
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
NEW YORK	GIANTS
FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
*CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*BOSTON (1)	BULLDOGS
*STATEN ISLAND (2)	STAPLETONS
*ORANGE	TORNADOES
PROVIDENCE	STEAM ROLLER

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

CHICAGO	BEARS
*BUFFALO (3)	BISONS
MINNEAPOLIS (4)	RED JACKETS
DAYTON	TRIANGLES
CLEVELAND (5)	
DETROIT (6)	
NEW YORK (7)	

TRANSACTION DATES

7/27/29 Chicago franchise transferred from Chris O'Brien to Dr. David Jones.

7/28/29 Pottsville franchise and team transferred (relocated) to Boston.

7/27/29 Brooklyn franchise transferred to Staten Island.

7/27/29 Duluth franchise transferred to Orange.

2/ 2/29 Buffalo franchise forfeited to the league.

7/27/29 Buffalo franchise permitted to operate conditionally.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The Pottsville franchise owner was granted permission to move his team to Boston. The franchise was experiencing financial difficulties and the Providence Steam Roller management agreed to guarantee the Pottsville/Boston franchise's check which was posted as a guarantee against any possible future claims.

(2) In 1927 the Brooklyn Lions' franchise was transferred to T.J. Mara, owner of the New York franchise. The franchise was turned over to Mara in lieu of debts by the Brooklyn management. In 1927, Mara allowed C.C. Pyle, owner of the rival New York team in the American Football League, to enter the N.F.L. and operate under the authority of the Brooklyn franchise. When Pyle did not operate his franchise and team in 1929, the franchise reverted back to Mara, who then transferred it to Staten Island. Mara's holding of the franchise rights in Brooklyn was not really based on a desire to have more than one franchise, but an exercising of his franchise's territorial rights.

(3) After failing to field a team in 1928, the Buffalo franchise was declared forfeit to the league on Feb. 2, 1929. The Buffalo management requested a hearing with the league's executive committee, after which a compromise was reached. The clubs that had outstanding claims against Buffalo for debts incurred due to their failure to field a team in 1928 agreed to drop their claims if Buffalo would operate in 1929. The executive committee also stipulated that the \$2500 guarantee fee deposited by Buffalo in 1928 remain in the league treasury and an additional \$2500 be added to it as a guarantee against future debts. The Buffalo management agreed to the conditions.

(4) Though Minneapolis announced suspension of operations in 1927 and no evidence suggests that any extension was granted through 1928, Minneapolis under the same management did operate as a league member in 1929. It is uncertain whether this should be considered a new franchise or a reactivation of an old franchise.

(5) Since Cleveland did not operate in 1929 and no extension was given on the suspension, the franchise is assumed cancelled.

(6) In the July issue of the Frankford Yellowjackets' team newsletter it is stated that "The Detroit franchise has been purchased by the New York Giants." The Giants wanted the services of the Detroit Wolverines' star player, Benny Friedman. In order to obtain Friedman, the team manager worked a deal by which the Giants were forced to purchase the entire franchise, which was experiencing financial problems.

(7) As mentioned in Transaction Note (2), the New York franchise held by C.C. Pyle did not operate in 1929 and the Brooklyn franchise under which the team operated was returned to T.J. Mara.

1930

FRANCHISE	TEAM
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
NEW YORK	GIANTS
CHICAGO	BEARS
*BROOKLYN	DODGERS
PROVIDENCE	STEAM ROLLER
STATEN ISLAND	STAPLETONS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*PORTSMOUTH	SPARTANS

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
MINNEAPOLIS	MARINES
NEWARK (1)	TORNADOES
*BUFFALO	
*BOSTON	

TRANSACTION DATES

7/12/30 Brooklyn purchases Dayton franchise.
7/12/30 Portsmouth granted a franchise.
7/12/30 Buffalo franchise forfeited to the league.
7/12/30 Boston franchise forfeited to the league.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The Orange Tornadoes team played the 1930 season at Newark and were known as the Newark Tornadoes. There is no evidence of this transaction being anything more than a team relocation.

1 9 3 1

FRANCHISE	TEAM
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
PORTSMOUTH	SPARTANS
CHICAGO	BEARS
NEW YORK	GIANTS
PROVIDENCE	STEAM ROLLER
*STATEN ISLAND	STAPES
*CLEVELAND	INDIANS
BROOKLYN	DODGERS
FRANKFORD	YELLOWJACKETS
*MINNEAPOLIS	
*NEWARK	

TRANSACTION DATES

7/12/31 League franchise to be operated as a traveling team out of Cleveland.
7/12/31 Newark franchise forfeited to the league.
7/12/31 Stapleton Football Club, Inc. name changed to Staten Island Stapes.
7/12/31 Minneapolis suspends operations for one year with league permission.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The Cleveland franchise was a league-sponsored traveling team, managed by Jerry Corcoran, the former manager of the Columbus Tigers. The league's intention was to make the franchise a permanent league member located at Cleveland if there was an approved backer and a demonstrated support for the team in Cleveland. Neither developed and the franchise operation was discontinued at the end of the season.

(2) The Newark franchise was forfeited to the league and ordered to be disposed of to the highest bidder. This is the first time such a statement is made in the league meeting minutes.

1 9 3 2

FRANCHISE	TEAM
CHICAGO	BEARS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
PORTSMOUTH	SPARTANS
*BOSTON (1)	BRAVES
NEW YORK	GIANTS
BROOKLYN	DODGERS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
STATEN ISLAND	STAPES
MINNEAPOLIS (2)	
*FRANKFORD	
*PROVIDENCE	

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

TRANSACTION DATES

7/ 9/32 Boston granted a franchise.

7/ 9/32 Frankford franchise forfeited to the league.

7/ 9/32 Providence suspends operations for one year with league permission.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) There is circumstantial evidence that indicates that the Newark franchise was sold to Boston. First, the fact that the league ordered the Newark franchise sold to the highest bidder indicates their intent was to replace the franchise ownership. Secondly, Boston is the next franchise to operate as a league member. And finally, Ole Haugrud, the owner of the defunct Duluth franchise, in a 1974 letter to George Halas recalled that his Duluth franchise was sold to Orange, which became Newark, which was sold to Boston. However, neither Ole Haugrud nor this study can provide any documentation.

(2) Since Minneapolis did not operate and their one year suspension was up, it is assumed that the franchise was cancelled.

1 9 3 3

FRANCHISE	TEAM
NEW YORK	GIANTS
BROOKLYN	DODGERS
BOSTON	REDSKINS
*PHILADELPHIA (1)	EAGLES
*PITTSBURGH	PIRATES
CHICAGO	BEARS
PORTSMOUTH	SPARTANS
*GREEN BAY	PACKERS
*CINCINNATI	REDS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*STATEN ISLAND	
*PROVIDENCE	

TRANSACTION DATES

7/ 8/33 Philadelphia granted a franchise.

7/ 8/33 Pittsburgh granted a franchise.

2/26/33 Green Bay Football Corp. transferred to Leland Joannes.

7/ 8/33 Cincinnati granted a franchise.

7/ 8/33 Staten Island suspends operations for one year with league permission.

7/ 8/33 Providence franchise is forfeited to the league.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) Before the league owners would approve Philadelphia's bid for a franchise, they made a stipulation that the Philadelphia applicant must pay 25% of the outstanding liens against the former Frankford Athletic Association. They further stipulated that if the league was successful in collecting all the monies owed by Frankford, Philadelphia would be reimbursed. This arrangement was provided for when the Frankford franchise was forfeited to the league. At that time, the league owners stated that no new applicant from the Philadelphia area would be considered unless they first paid the outstanding debt created by Frankford.

1 9 3 4

FRANCHISE	TEAM
NEW YORK	GIANTS
BOSTON	REDSKINS
BROOKLYN	DODGERS
PHILADELPHIA	EAGLES
PITTSBURGH	PIRATES
CHICAGO	BEARS
*DETROIT	LIONS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
CINCINNATI (1)	REDS

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

ST. LOUIS (1) GUNNERS
*STATEN ISLAND

TRANSACTION DATES

6/30/34 Portsmouth franchise transferred and team moved to Detroit.
7/1/34 Staten Island given permission to suspend operations for one year again.
11/ 6/34 St. Louis purchases Cincinnati franchise.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The Cincinnati franchise defaulted on payment to its players and was ordered suspended by the league, as the existing constitution automatically called for. With league approval, the independent St. Louis Gunners joined the league by purchasing the Cincinnati franchise and finished out the Reds' schedule. Eventually the Gunners team consisted of players from both squads.

1 9 3 5

FRANCHISE	TEAM
NEW YORK	GIANTS
BROOKLYN	DODGERS
PITTSBURGH	PIRATES
BOSTON	REDSKINS
PHILADELPHIA	EAGLES
DETROIT	LIONS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
CHICAGO	BEARS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*STATEN ISLAND	
*ST. LOUIS (1)	

TRANSACTION DATES

6/16/35 Staten island franchise declared forfeit.
6/16/35 St. Louis franchise declared forfeit.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) The St. Louis franchise was offered a conditional reinstatement but refused the conditions and was therefore rejected by the league.

1 9 3 6

NO TRANSACTIONS OCCURRED DURING THIS YEAR.

1 9 3 7

FRANCHISE	TEAM
*WASHINGTON	REDSKINS
*NEW YORK	GIANTS
PITTSBURGH	PIRATES
*BROOKLYN	DODGERS
*PHILADELPHIA	EAGLES
CHICAGO	BEARS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
DETROIT	LIONS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*CLEVELAND	RAMS

TRANSACTIONS DATES

2/13/37 Boston franchise given permission to operate in Washington, D.C.
2/13/37 New York franchise title transferred from New York National Football League Co., Inc. to New York Football Giants, Inc.
2/13/37 Brooklyn franchise title transferred from Kelly Cagle Enterprises, Inc., to Brooklyn Dodgers Football Club, Inc.

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

2/13/37 Philadelphia franchise title transferred from Philadelphia Football Club, Inc., a Delaware corporation, to Philadelphia Eagles football Club, Inc., a Pennsylvania corporation.

2/12/37 Cleveland granted a franchise.

1 9 3 8 - 1 9 4 2

NO TRANSACTIONS OCCURRED DURING THIS PERIOD.

1 9 4 3

FRANCHISE	TEAM
WASHINGTON	REDSKINS
NEW YORK	GIANTS
*PHILADELPHIA (1)	EAGLES
*PITTSBURGH (1)	STEELERS
BROOKLYN	DODGERS
CHICAGO	BEARS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
DETROIT	LIONS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
*CLEVELAND	
*BOSTON	

TRANSACTION DATES

6/19/43 Philadelphia and Pittsburgh franchises are granted permission to merge their teams for one season.

4/ 6/43 Cleveland franchise granted permission to suspend operations for one year.

6/19/43 Boston granted a franchise.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) It was agreed that neither Philadelphia nor Pittsburgh would give up any of their players' rights while the merger was in effect. It was also agreed that Pittsburgh would vote only on matters that concerned Pittsburgh or the league constitution.

1 9 4 4

FRANCHISE	TEAM
NEW YORK	GIANTS
PHILADELPHIA	EAGLES
WASHINGTON	REDSKINS
BOSTON	YANKS
BROOKLYN	DODGERS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
CHICAGO	BEARS
DETROIT	LIONS
CLEVELAND	RAMS
*CHICAGO (1)	CARD-PITT
*PITTSBURGH (1)	CARD-PITT

TRANSACTION DATES

4/22/44 Chicago and Pittsburgh franchises granted permission to merge their teams for one season.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) Although the teams competed as a member of the Western Division, the league stipulated that in addition to both teams retaining all their franchise rights throughout the one-year merger, Pittsburgh would return to the Eastern Division at the season's end.

1 9 4 5

FRANCHISE	TEAM
-----------	------

THE COFFIN CORNER: Vol. 18, No. 3 (1996)

NEW YORK	GIANTS
PHILADELPHIA	EAGLES
WASHINGTON	REDSKINS
PITTSBURGH	STEELERS
BOSTON (1)	YANKS
CHICAGO	BEARS
*LOS ANGELES (2)	RAMS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
DETROIT	LIONS

TRANSACTION DATES

1/12/46 Cleveland franchise given permission to transfer to Los Angeles.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) Dan Topping, owner of the Brooklyn franchise that had merged with the Boston franchise during the 1945 season, announced that he was joining the newly formed All-America Football Conference. The league declared Topping's franchise forfeit and awarded the players to the Boston franchise.

(2) Cleveland was given permission to transfer to Los Angeles on the condition that it secure the use of a stadium by April 15, 1946. If this condition was not met, the team and franchise were to be transferred to Cincinnati.

1 9 4 7 - 1 9 4 8

NO TRANSACTIONS OCCURRED DURING THIS PERIOD.

1 9 4 9

FRANCHISE	TEAM
PHILADELPIA (1)	EAGLES
PITTSBURGH	STEELERS
NEW YORK	GIANTS
WASHINGTON	REDSKINS
*NEW YORK (2)	BULLDOGS
LOS ANGELES	RAMS
CHICAGO	BEARS
CHICAGO	CARDINALS
DETROIT	LIONS
GREEN BAY	PACKERS
*BOSTON	

TRANSACTION DATES

1/21/49 New York granted a franchise.

1/21/49 Boston franchise cancelled by the league.

TRANSACTION NOTES

(1) Though no date is available, it is reported at the Jan. 20, 1949 league meeting that there was an earlier unanimous consent, via telephone, of all league members admitting the new owners of the Philadelphia franchise.

(2) Ted Collins, the owner of the Boston franchise, asked that his franchise be cancelled and that he be granted a new franchise to operate in New York. The league approved the request. One explanation of the unusual move is that Collins may have desired for tax purposes to "write-off" the Boston franchise as a loss and at the same time remain a member of the league, though not in Boston. Even though much of the Boston team remained on the New York team, since the Boston franchise was cancelled and a new franchise awarded, the two franchises cannot be considered the same.