

# Paw Paw in the Major Leagues

## George Lynn Paige (“Pat” Paige, “Piggy”)

Pat Paige was born on Friday, May 5, 1883, in Paw Paw, Michigan. Paige was 29 years old when he broke into the big leagues on May 20, 1911, with the Cleveland Naps. He pitched one year posting 1 win and 1 save without a loss. He gave up no home runs, struck out 6 and walked seven. In those two games, he had seven at bats, getting one single and one double. He batted in 3 runs. Nickname: Piggy. No picture available. Paige is listed as a descendent of Isaac Cummings who came to the USA in 1635, settling in Topsfield & Ipswich, Massachusetts.

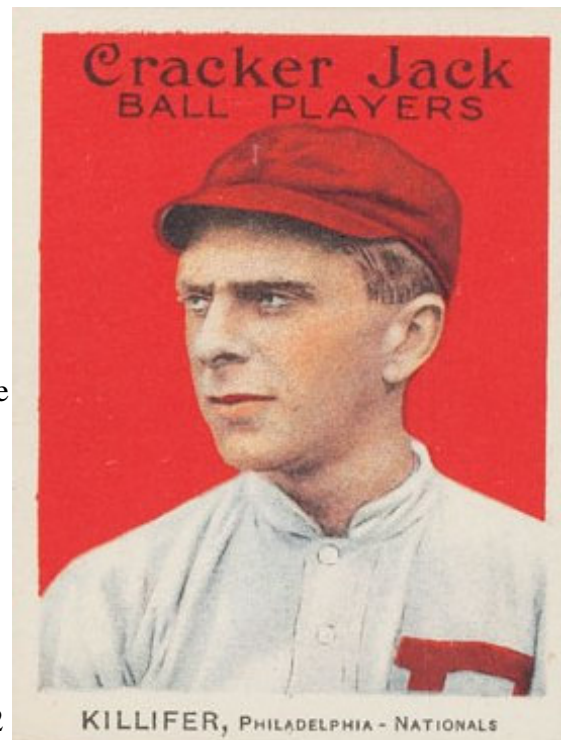
His first game was on 5-20-1911 at the age of 29. His last game was on 6-1-1911. He dies in Berlin, Wisconsin and was buried in Elkhart, Indiana. In his career, he batted left, threw right, stood 5'11" tall and weighed 170 lbs.

Paige never returned to Paw Paw following his career. The Paige family had lived in Mishawaka for only a brief period of time. From there they went to Jackson and stayed there shortly before settling in Elkhart. George Paige became a brakeman and conductor for the New York Central Railroad working out of Elkhart. In the spring of 1938 he took ill and was no longer able to work. The following September he went to the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Paige, who had been living in Wautoma, Wisconsin. In May of 1939, the former player was brought to Berlin Hospital, Berlin, Wisconsin, where his death occurred on June 8, 1939.

Paige played that year with Cy Young. Young, a Hall of Fame pitcher and who is the namesake for pitching's most prestigious award - the Cy Young Award, was 44 at the time. That year, Young posted 3 wins and 4 losses that year with the Cleveland Naps.

## Bill “Reinder” Killefer

**William Killefer** (October 10, 1887 - July 3, 1960), nicknamed "Reindeer Bill", was an American catcher and manager in Major League Baseball who had a 12-year career for the St. Louis Browns, Philadelphia Phillies, and Chicago Cubs. He played for the 1915 Phillies team that lost to the Boston Red Sox in the World Series, and after the 1917 season, he was traded to the Cubs with Grover Cleveland Alexander for two players and \$55,000 in cash. In 1918 he played in another World Series, losing again to the Red Sox. He retired from playing at age 33 in 1921, becoming the manager of the Cubs shortly after. He was fired after 75 games in 1923, and after five years away from managing, he was hired by the Browns in 1930, with little success, never finishing above fifth place. His managerial record was 524-622



(.457) in nine seasons.

Grover Cleveland Alexander considered Killefer as his personal catcher. continued to play well for Philadelphia, and over the next six years pitched a total of 329 games, of which 219 were complete games. Baseball is a business, however, and team owner William Baker traded both Alexander and his personal catcher and close friend, "Reindeer" Bill Killefer, for \$55,000—this, after Alexander had led the Phillies to their first pennant and



World Series in 1915. Baker admitted that the trade was purely a business transaction rather than a strategic move. Killefer and Alexander made their new home in the windy city, playing for the Chicago Cubs in the 1918 season.

**Bill Killefer** spent 52 years in baseball as a player, coach, manager and scout. His first game was 9-13-1909 and his last was 10-1-1921.

He played baseball as a catcher for 16 years from 1906 to 1921 for a sixteen year career including College(4), MLB(13) and the minor leagues(4).

He attended college at Sacred Heart College (Watertown WI) one year and St. Edwards University (Austin TX), four years(1906-1909).

Killefer enlisted in the U.S. Army infantry for World War I after playing in the 1918 World Series and was mustered out in time for the 1919 season. His father (William Killefer) fought in the Civil War and his son (also William Killefer) (1922-1996) had a long career as a commander in the U.S. Navy.

Killefer succeeded Johnny Evers as Chicago Cub Manager, 1921-1925, resigning in midseason, 1925. Appointed coach, St. Louis Cardinals, 1926. Named coach, St. Louis Browns, 1927 and manager, 1930. Relieved as pilot in July of 1933. Out of game in 1934 and 1935. Manager, Sacramento in the Pacific Coast League, 1936 through 1938. Appointed coach, Brooklyn Dodgers, November 1938 and Philadelphia Phillies, 1942. Managed Elmira in the Eastern League in 1940.

Spent the rest of his life as a scout for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Cleveland Indians.

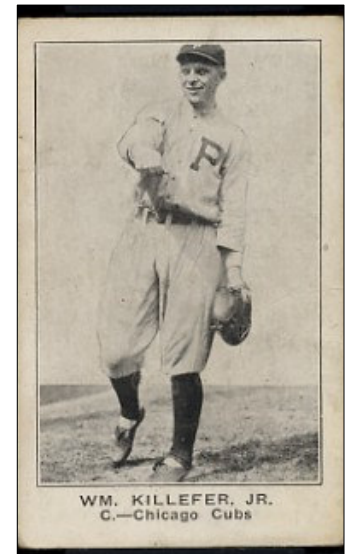
He died at age 72 at the VA Hospital in Elsmere DE and is buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Paw Paw MI.

Brother of Wade "Red" Killefer

**A biography is on line at:**

<http://bioproj.sabr.org/bioproj.cfm?a=v&v=l&bid=2580&pid=7496>.

It is written by Charlie Weatherby.



**Brother "Red" Killefer also played major league ball. Please read on.**

## Wade “Red” Killefer Stats

Red Killefer was born on Monday, April 13, 1885, in Bloomingdale, Michigan. Killefer was 22 years old when he broke into the big leagues on September 16, 1907, with the Detroit Tigers. He played seven years with the Tigers (1907-1909), THE Senators (1909-1910) and the Reds (1914-16) and the Giants (1916). His first game was on 9-16-1907 and his last was on 8-19-1916. He died 9-4-1958 in Los Angeles, California.

He attended University of Michigan and Purdue University. He batted and threw right. He stood 5’-9” tall and weighed in at 175.

His career stats include 467 games, 1537 at bats, getting 381 hits and scoring 181 runs. He had 61 doubles and 16 triples in his career. Best year was with the Tigers (1910) when his batting average was .279. Not a power hitter, Red hit three home runs in his career. He was walked 128 times and struck out 59 times. His career batting average was .248, his On Base Percentage was .328 and his Slugging Percentage was .316.

Red played in the outfield (291 games), third base (11 games), second base (129 games), first base (3 games), Shortstop (8 games), and catcher (2 games). Through all these positions, Red had a fielding percentage of .937 committing out of 1,371 chances. He started 50 double plays and had just 86 errors.

Interestingly, Red led the American League (1910) and the National League (1915) in being hit by pitches; 16 times in 1910 and 19 times in 1915.



*Above: Red Killefer*

**Red Killefer’s biography is on line. It was written by By Charlie Weatherly**  
<http://bioproj.sabr.org/bioproj.cfm?a=v&v=l&bid=2642&pid=7497>

- ✚ **For another famous Paw Paw person connected to major league baseball, see the separate file on Charlie Maxwell, also on this Website.**
- ✚ **For Paw Paws role in the Civil War and the Capture of Jefferson Davis, on the history of the Carnegie Center, or on Cinco de Mayo, see the separate files also on this Website.**
- ✚ **Some historic photos of the Village of Paw Paw are located on line at:**  
<http://www.pawpawchamber.com/members/chamberweb/gallery/album003>