

Doctors, Lawyers, Indian Chiefs

Jim Thorpe & Pop Warner's Carlisle Indian School football immortals tackle socialites, bootleggers, students, moguls, prejudice, the government, ghouls, tooth decay and rum.

Tom Benjey





Carlisle, Pennsylvania

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Table of Contents

Preface and Acknowledgements	viii
Introduction	1
1 Carlisle's Football Trail of Glory	5
2 Carlisle Indians Turn Pro	23
3 Glenn Scobey "Pop" Warner	35
4 Frank Cayou	43
5 Frank Hudson	54
6 William Milton Baine	61
7 James Marston Phillips	64
8 Edward Lowell Rogers	73
9 Bemus and Hawley Pierce	82
10 James E. Johnson	93
11 Caleb M. Sickles	100
12 Frank Mt. Pleasant	108
13 William J. Gardner	121
14 Sampson George Bird	131
15 Jim Thorpe	136
16 Charles and Joseph Guyon	148
17 William Garlow	163
18 Peter R. Calac	170
19 William Henry Dietz	177
20 Gus Welch	187
21 Al Exendine	201
22 Victor Murat Kelley	209

23	Carlisle Captains	214
	Benjamin Caswell (1894)	216
	Martin Wheelock (1899, 1901)	219
	Charles Williams (1902)	223
	Arthur Sheldon (1904)	226
	Nicholas Bowen (1905)	229
	Antonio Lubo (1907)	231
	Wauseka (1908) and Pete Hauser (1910)	235
	Archie and Joseph Libby (1909)	241
	Elmer Busch (1914)	246
	George May (1916)	250
	George Tibbets (1917)	252
	John B. Flinchum (1918)	254
	Captain Leadership	256
	Fact or Fiction	260
24	All-Indian Teams	261
	Alex Arcasa	265
	Joe Bergie	269
	Leon Boutwell	273
	Frederick Charles and Joseph Henry Broker	278
	Nick Lassaw	281
	William Newashe	285
	Stancil Powell	292
	Thomas St. Germain	297
	George Vedernack	301
	Hugh and Joel Wheelock	305
25	They Also Played	311
	Isaac Seneca	312
	Louis A. Island	316
	Stacy Matlock	320
	Appendices	326
	Selected Bibliography	327
	Index.....	331

William Milton Baine



William Baine,
July 1896 *Stenographer*
journal; *Ganser Library*,
Millersville University

Name: William Milton Baine

DOB: 9/10/1876

Weight: 191

Tribe: Sioux

Parents: William Baine, white probably Scots-Irish; Margare

Early Schooling: Haskell Institute; University of Kansas

Later Schooling: Dickinson College preparatory school;
University of Wisconsin

Honors:

Nickname:

Height: 5' 11-1/2"

Age: 27

Home: Fort Sisseton, SD

Stenographer

William Baine and his older sister, Martha, were orphaned by 1889. He was born on September 10, 1876 at Fort Sisseton, South Dakota to a Scots-Irish father and a Sioux mother according to his enrollment papers for the University of Wisconsin. Exactly how young William came to attend Haskell Institute is not known; however, the facts that he was intelligent, athletic and orphaned must surely have been contributing factors. It was at Haskell that the sporting community first took notice of him.

Dr. A. R. "Burt" Kennedy, a future Lawrence, Kansas dentist who quarterbacked the 1896 Kansas University team, remembered how Baine came to be involved with the university across town:

"We K. U. football enthusiasts noticed that the Indian boy had a definite knack for playing the game, so we went out to Haskell and got him to come in to K. U., where we enrolled him in the school of law to make him eligible to play. Despite the fact that he probably had no higher education than fourth grade, we saw to it that he kept eligible until the season was over."

Kennedy also recalled a minor historical event in which he and Baine played roles. Baine suffered a slight concussion of the brain – slight by Kennedy's estimation – in a

practice session prior to the big game with Nebraska. So, Kennedy and a couple of co-conspirators fashioned a padded helmet out of canvas to provide some protection for the boy's throbbing head. Kennedy had clear memories of it:

"That was the first football helmet I ever saw. We usually wore our hair so darned long that we never thought about helmets for protecting the head before. Baine made the first touchdown in the first half of the Nebraska game. Then in the second half, K. U. stalled against the big line of the Cornhuskers. We were crowded over to one side of the then new McCrook field and couldn't pick up a yard. I was quarterback and acting captain for the game, so I called Baine, still complaining of an aching head, in the huddle and told him he had to run the ball around Nebraska's right end and at least get it out to the center of the field so we could work on both ends of the Cornhusker line.

"'No can do, no can do,' was Baine's response.

"Anyway, I called a play that gave the ball to Baine for a right end run. He took the ball and ran around the end and down the field 60 yards for a touchdown so fast that not even a single Cornhusker had time to touch him."

After this experience with Kansas University football, it is likely that Baine stayed at Haskell for a few years. The July 1898 issue of *The Stenographer* tells a little more about his time in Kansas:

"William Baine, a Sioux Indian, formerly a student of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, is now employed by the government at Carson City, Nevada. Mr. Blaine is from the Fort Sisseton Agency, South Dakota, and has attended school about seven years altogether. He is a graduate of the Normal Department, also the Grammar School of the Haskell Institute. We have pleasure in presenting his photograph, together with shorthand notes written by him."

Apparently wanting to further his education, he transferred to Carlisle around 1899 when 23 years old but not to take courses there. He enrolled in the Dickinson College Preparatory School but played football for Carlisle. Most likely he spent the 1899 season on the scrubs, learning the system as the Indians had a strong team that year. Baine did play tackle in the 1900 Harvard game in which "he received a severe injury in the right side" but apparently recovered and was a regular after that. However, it wasn't always at the same position. Against Washington and Jefferson, he played left halfback. Against Columbia, he was back at tackle.

Baine left Carlisle and Dickinson College at the end of the school year in 1901 and reenrolled at Haskell Institute. Some of the coursework from Haskell that was listed on his application for the University of Wisconsin may have been completed that year. He played on Haskell's team in 1901 and 1902, receiving some coaching from John Outland, after whom the trophy for the outstanding college football lineman is named. Haskell fielded strong elevens those years as Baine teamed with past and future Carlisle stars that included Redwater, Archquette, Pete Hauser, Emil Hauser and Charles Guyon. They defeated such powers as Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri and Texas while losing to Illinois, Minnesota and Nebraska.

William shone as one of Haskell's stars as reported by *The Lincoln Evening News*: "The spectacular play of the [Haskell-Missouri] game was a getaway of Baine, the stalwart Indian half, near the beginning of play. He ran eighty yards to a touchdown but as in the Haskell-Nebraska game, stepped on the side line and was called back." Apparently he made a habit of stepping out of bounds at inopportune times. He also had a temper. In an

article titled "Scalped" a reporter for *The Evening News* recounted a Nebraska score: "When [John R. 'Chief'] Bender had sifted through, he called 'down.' But before the Indians had ceased, they had pushed him back a foot over the chalk mark. Baine insisted that another effort be made before a touchdown should be counted. [Referee] Crawford ruled otherwise, and Baine, with a display of primitive temper threw the ball straight into the official's face. He was taken from the game for his unsportsmanlike conduct." Without William on the field, the Indians suffered their most one-sided loss of the 1902 season.

In 1903, William Baine, then living in Oneida, Wisconsin was admitted to the University of Wisconsin but, prior to being accepted, spent much of the summer working out with the football team and improving on his punting. Although he had good marks in his prep school work, he was admitted on probation. He was described as, "... a stocky fellow, weighs 184 pounds stripped, is fast on his feet, and is a promising man for the much-needed backfield." Wisconsin had an off year in 1902 and was rebuilding.

After a promising start, William Baine injured his leg but continued to play even though slowed down. When fluid accumulated on Baine's knee, the team physician benched him. He was considered healthy enough to play in the Minnesota game but missed two field goals he attempted barefoot. Although injured much of the season, he lettered anyway.

Little is known about his activities before a December 1905 newspaper article:

"SISSETON. S. D., Dec. 2 – William Baine, the famous Indian football player, who played half-back on the University of Wisconsin football team, was to-night shot and fatally wounded by Night Watchman Mahoney. Baine, who it is said had been drinking, drew a revolver and began firing promiscuously. Mahoney appeared on the scene and ordered him to cease firing, whereupon the Indian turned his weapon on the officer. Before he could shoot again, however, Mahoney drew his revolver and fired, shooting Baine through the head."

William Baine's short, but eventful, life ended violently. One cannot wonder if his "mild concussion of the brain" had anything to do with his end. What William did after leaving the University of Wisconsin is unknown, but he may have married and had children. The June 30, 1904 Sisseton census lists a William Bain (the e was often omitted), age 33 with a daughter, Hope, age 1. His sister, Martha, was listed as being age 34. Ages were fluid on censuses of that time, so that William Bain is probably our William Baine. The January 1, 1906 Sisseton census lists Hope and William M. Bain, sister and brother ages 3 and 1, respectively, as orphan children. Later censuses list them as Hope Winona Baine and William Milton Baine. The 1906 and later Oneida censuses list an Alice Powless Baine with a son, Milton Baine, who was born on August 4, 1905. The rolls don't list Alice as having a daughter. Alice may have been William's wife, but it is questionable. Perhaps he has grandchildren who can shed some light on his premature demise. An unknown contributor posted a group photo on DeadFred.com that includes the likeness of a William Baine, son of Zinthalasapa and Susan Baine, who lived with a LeBlanc family on the Standing Rock Reservation near Fort Yates, North Dakota. It is hoped that the person who posted this photo is eventually tracked down and that the person has more information regarding the people in the photo.