

Jack Johnson (boxer)

John Arthur Johnson (March 31, 1878 – June 10, 1946), nicknamed the **Galveston Giant**, was an American boxer who, at the height of the Jim Crow era, became the first African American world heavyweight boxing champion (1908–1915). Among the period's most dominant champions, Johnson remains a boxing legend, with his 1910 fight against James J. Jeffries dubbed the "fight of the century".^[4] According to filmmaker Ken Burns, "for more than thirteen years, Jack Johnson was the most famous and the most notorious African-American on Earth".^{[5][6]} Transcending boxing, he became part of the culture and the history of racism in America.^[7]

In 1912, Johnson opened a successful and luxurious "black and tan" (desegregated) restaurant and nightclub, which in part was run by his wife, a white woman. Major newspapers of the time soon claimed that Johnson was attacked by the government only after he became famous as a black man married to a white woman, and was linked to other white women.^[8] Johnson was arrested on charges of violating the Mann Act—forbidding one to transport a woman across state lines for "immoral purposes"—a racially motivated charge that embroiled him in controversy for his relationships, including marriages, with white women.^[9] There were also allegations of domestic violence. Sentenced to a year in prison, Johnson fled the country and fought boxing matches abroad for seven years until 1920 when he served his sentence at the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. Johnson was posthumously pardoned by President Donald Trump in May 2018, 105 years after his conviction.^{[7][10]}

Johnson continued taking paying fights for many years, and operated several other businesses, including lucrative endorsement deals. Johnson died in a car crash on June 10, 1946, at the age of 68.^[11] He is buried at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.^[12]

Johnson in 1915

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Statistics
Nickname(s) Galveston Giant ^[1]
Weight(s) Heavyweight ^[1]
Height 6 ft ½ in (184.2 cm) ^{[2][3]}
Reach 74 in (188 cm) ^[1]
Born March 31, 1878 ^[1] <div>Galveston, Texas, United States^[1]</div>
Died June 10, 1946 (aged 68) ^[1] <div>Franklinton, North Carolina, United States</div>
Stance Orthodox ^[1]
Boxing record
Total fights 104
Wins 74
Wins by KO 40
Losses 13
Draws 10
No contests 5

Early life

Johnson was born the third child of nine, and the first son, of Henry and Tina Johnson, two former slaves who worked blue collar jobs as a janitor and a dishwasher. His father Henry served as a civilian teamster of the Union's 38th Colored Infantry. Jack once said his father was the "most perfect physical specimen that he had ever seen", although his father was only 5 ft 5 in (1.65 m) and left with an atrophied right leg from his service in the war.^[13]

Growing up in Galveston, Texas, Johnson attended five years of school.^[14] Like all of his siblings, Jack was expected to work.^[14] As a young man, Johnson was frail.^[15]

Although Johnson grew up in the South, he said that segregation was not an issue in the somewhat secluded city of Galveston, as everyone living in the 12th Ward was poor and went through the same struggles.^[16] Johnson remembers growing up with a "gang" of white boys, in which he never felt victimized or excluded. Remembering his childhood, Johnson said: "As I grew up, the white boys were my friends and my pals. I ate with them, played with them and slept at their homes. Their mothers gave me cookies, and I ate at their tables. No one ever taught me that white men were superior to me."^[16]

After Johnson quit school, he began a job working at the local docks. He made several other attempts at working other jobs around town until one day he made his way to Dallas, finding work at the race track exercising horses. Jack stuck with this job until he found a new apprenticeship for a carriage painter by the name of Walter Lewis. Lewis enjoyed watching friends spar, and Johnson began to learn how to box.^[17] Johnson later claimed that it was thanks to Lewis that he became a boxer.^[18]

At 16, Johnson moved to New York City and found living arrangements with Barbados Joe Walcott, a welterweight fighter from the West Indies.^[18] Johnson again found work exercising horses for the local stable, until he was fired for exhausting a horse. On his return to Galveston, he soon found employment as a janitor at a gym owned by German-born heavyweight fighter Herman Bernau. Johnson eventually put away enough money to buy two pairs of boxing gloves, sparring every chance he got.^[19]

After returning home, Johnson had a fight with one Davie Pearson. Johnson remembers Pearson as a "grown and toughened" man who accused Johnson of turning him in to the police over a game of craps. When both of them were released from jail, they met at the docks and Johnson beat Pearson before a large crowd.^[19] Johnson fought in a summer league against a man named John "Must Have It" Lee. Because prize fighting was illegal in Texas, the fight was broken up and moved to the beach where Johnson won his first fight and a prize of one dollar and fifty cents.^[20]

Early boxing career

Johnson made his debut as a professional boxer on November 1, 1898, in Galveston, Texas, when he knocked out Charley Brooks in the second round of a 15-round bout for what was billed as "The Texas State Middleweight Title". In his third pro fight on May 8, 1899, he battled "Klondike" (John W. Haynes or Haines), an African American heavyweight known as "The Black Hercules", in Chicago. Klondike (so called as he was considered a rarity, like the gold in the Klondike), who had declared himself the "Black Heavyweight Champ", won on a technical knockout (TKO) in the fifth round of a scheduled six-rounder. The two fighters met again in 1900, with the first contest resulting in a draw as both fighters were on their feet at the end of 20 rounds. Johnson won the second fight by a TKO when Klondike refused to come out for the 14th round. Johnson did not claim Klondike's unrecognized title.

Joe Choynski

On February 25, 1901, Johnson fought Joe Choynski in Galveston. Choynski, a popular and experienced heavyweight, knocked out Johnson in the third round. Prizefighting was illegal in Texas at the time and they were both arrested. Bail was set at \$5,000 which neither could afford. The sheriff permitted both fighters to go home at night so long as they agreed to spar in the jail cell. Large crowds gathered to watch the sessions. After 23 days in jail, their bail was reduced to an affordable level and a grand jury refused to indict either man. However, Johnson later stated that he learned his boxing skills during that jail time. The two would remain friends.^[21]

Johnson attested that his success in boxing came from the coaching he received from Choynski.^{[22][23]} The aging Choynski saw natural talent and determination in Johnson and taught him the nuances of defense, stating "A man who can move like you should never have to take a punch".^[6]

Boxing style

Throughout his career Johnson built a unique fighting style of his own, which was not customary to boxing during this time. Though Jack would typically strike first, he would fight defensively, waiting for his opponents to tire out, while becoming more aggressive as the rounds went on. He often fought to punish his opponents through the rounds rather than knocking them out, and would continuously dodge their punches. He would then quickly strike back

with a blow of his own. Jack often made his fights look effortless, and as if he had much more to offer, but when pushed he could also display some powerful moves and punches. There are films of his fights in which he can be seen holding up his opponent, who otherwise might have fallen, until he recovered.^{[24][25]}

His style of playing with his opponents was very effective, but was criticized by the press as being a cowardly fighting approach. In contrast, world heavyweight champion "Gentleman" Jim Corbett, who was white, had used many of the same techniques a decade earlier, and was praised by the press as "the cleverest man in boxing".^[5]

Top contender

Johnson beat former black heavyweight champ Frank Childs on October 21, 1902. Childs had twice won the black heavyweight title and continued to claim himself the true black champ despite having lost his title in a bout with George Byers and then, after retaking the title from Byers, losing it again to Denver Ed Martin. He still made pretence to being the black champ and claimed the unrecognized black heavyweight title as well. Johnson won by a TKO in the 12th round of the scheduled 20-rounder, when Childs's seconds signaled he couldn't go on. (He claimed he had dislocated his elbow.) The defeat by Johnson forever ended Childs's pretensions to the black heavyweight crown.



Johnson standing behind Choynski in Chicago in 1909

World colored heavyweight champ

By 1903, though Johnson's official record showed him with nine wins against three losses, five draws and two no contests, he had won at least 50 fights against both white and black opponents. Johnson won his first title on February 3, 1903, beating Denver Ed Martin on points in a 20-round match for the World Colored Heavyweight Championship. Johnson held the title until it was vacated when he won the world heavyweight title from Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia on Boxing Day 1908. His reign of 2,151 days was the third longest in the 60-year-long history of the colored heavyweight title. Only Harry Wills at 3,103 days and Peter Jackson at 3,041 days held the title longer. A three-time colored heavyweight champion, Wills held the title for a total of 3,351 days.

Johnson defended the colored heavyweight title 17 times, which was second only to the 26 times Wills defended the title. While colored champ, he defeated ex-colored champs Denver Ed Martin and Frank Childs again and beat future colored heavyweight champs Sam McVey three times and Sam Langford once. He beat Langford on points in a 15-rounder and never gave him another shot at the title, either when he was colored champ or the world heavyweight champ.



Johnson in 1908 in a photograph by Otto Sarony

Johnson, Jeanette and Langford

Johnson fought Joe Jeanette a total of seven times, all during his reign as colored champ before he became the world's heavyweight champion, winning four times and drawing twice (three of the victories and one draw were newspaper decisions). In their first match in 1905, they had fought to a draw, but in their second match on November 25, 1905, Johnson lost as he was disqualified in the second round of a scheduled six-round fight. Johnson continued to claim the title because of the disqualification.

After Johnson became the first African-American Heavyweight Champion of the World on December 26, 1908, his World Colored Heavyweight Championship was vacated. Jeanette fought Sam McVey for the title in Paris on February 20, 1909 and was beaten, but later took the title from McVey in a 49-round bout on April 17 of that year in Paris for a \$6,000 purse. Sam Langford subsequently claimed the title during Jeanette's reign after Johnson refused to defend the World Heavyweight Championship against him. Eighteen months later, Jeanette lost the title to Langford.

During his reign as world champ, Johnson never again fought Jeanette despite numerous challenges and avoided Langford, who won the colored title a record five times. In 1906 Jack Johnson fought Sam Langford. Langford took severe punishment and was knocked down 3 times; however, he lasted the 15 round distance.^[26]

On November 27, 1945, Johnson finally stepped back into the ring with Joe Jeanette. The 67-year-old Johnson squared off against the 66-year-old Jeanette in an exhibition held at a New York City rally to sell war bonds. Fellow former colored heavyweight champ Harry Wills also participated in the exhibition.

World heavyweight champion

Johnson's efforts to win the world heavyweight title were initially thwarted, as at the time world heavyweight champion James J. Jeffries refused to face him, and retired instead.^[27] However, Johnson did fight former champion Bob Fitzsimmons in July 1907, and knocked him out in two rounds.^[5]

Johnson finally won the world heavyweight title on December 26, 1908, a full six years after lightweight champion Joe Gans became the first African American boxing champion. Johnson's victory over the reigning world champion, Canadian Tommy Burns, at the Sydney Stadium in Australia, came after following Burns around the world for two years and taunting him in the press for a match.^[28] Burns agreed to fight Johnson only after promoters guaranteed him \$30,000.^[29] The fight lasted fourteen rounds before being stopped by the police in front of over 20,000 spectators, and Johnson was named the winner.^{[29][30]}

After Johnson's victory over Burns, racial animosity among whites ran so deep that some called for a "Great White Hope" to take the title away from Johnson.^[31] While Johnson was heavyweight champion, he was covered more in the press than all other notable black men combined.^{[32][33]} The lead-up to the bout was peppered with racist press against Johnson. Even the New York Times wrote of the event, "If the black man wins, thousands and thousands of his ignorant brothers will misinterpret his victory as justifying claims to much more than mere physical equality with their white neighbors." As title holder, Johnson thus had to face a series of fighters each billed by boxing promoters as a "great white hope", often in exhibition matches. In 1909, he beat Tony Ross, Al Kaufman, and the middleweight champion Stanley Ketchel.

The match with Ketchel was originally thought to have been an exhibition, and in fact it was fought by both men that way, until the 12th round, when Ketchel threw a right to Johnson's head, knocking him down. Quickly regaining his feet, and very annoyed, Johnson immediately dashed straight at Ketchel and threw a single punch, an uppercut, a punch for which he was famous, to Ketchel's jaw, knocking him out. The punch knocked out Ketchel's front teeth; Johnson can be seen on film removing them from his glove, where they had been embedded.^[34]

"Fight of the Century"

In 1910, former undefeated heavyweight champion James J. Jeffries came out of retirement to challenge Johnson, saying "I am going into this fight for the sole purpose of proving that a white man is better than a Negro".^[35] He had not fought in six years and had to lose well over 100 pounds to get back to his championship fighting weight. Initially Jeffries had no interest in the fight, being quite happy as an alfalfa farmer. But those who wanted to see Johnson defeated badgered Jeffries mercilessly for months, and offered him an unheard sum of money, reputed to be about \$120,000 (equivalent to \$3.2 million in 2018) which he finally accepted.^[36]

Jeffries remained mostly hidden from media attention until the day of the fight, while Johnson soaked up the spotlight. John L. Sullivan, who made boxing championships a popular and esteemed spectacle, stated that Johnson was in such good physical shape compared to Jeffries that he could lose only if he had a lack of skill on the day. Before the fight, Jeffries remarked, "It is my intention to go right after my opponent and knock him out as soon as possible." While his wife added, "I'm not interested in prizefighting but I am interested in my husband's welfare, I do hope this will be his last fight." Johnson's words were "May the best man win."^[36]

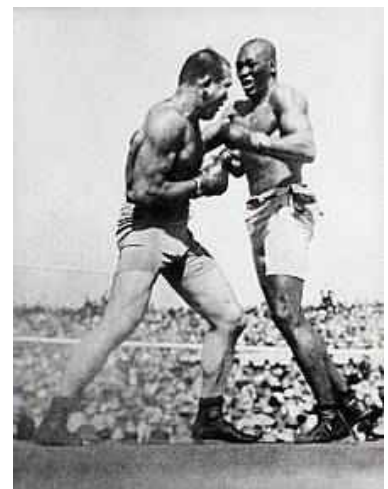
Racial tension was brewing leading up to the fight and to prevent any harm to either boxer, guns were prohibited within the arena as were the sale of alcohol and anyone under the effects of alcohol. Behind the racial attitudes being instigated by the media was a major investment in gambling for the fight with 10–7 odds in favor of Jeffries.^[36]

The fight took place on July 4, 1910, in front of 20,000 people, at a ring built just for the occasion in downtown Reno, Nevada. Jeffries proved unable to impose his will on the younger champion and Johnson dominated the fight. By the 15th round, after Jeffries had been knocked down twice for the first time in his career, Jeffries' corner threw in the towel to end the fight and prevent Jeffries from having a knockout on his record. Johnson later remarked he knew the fight was over in the 4th round when he landed an uppercut and saw the look on Jeffries face, stating, "I knew what that look meant. The old ship was sinking." Afterwards, Jeffries was humbled by the loss and what he'd seen of Johnson in their match. "I could never have whipped Johnson at my best", Jeffries said. "I couldn't have hit him. No, I couldn't have reached him in 1,000 years."^[29]

The "Fight of the Century" earned Johnson \$65,000 (over \$1.7 million in 2018 dollars) and silenced the critics, who had belittled Johnson's previous victory over Tommy Burns as "empty", claiming that Burns was a false champion since Jeffries had retired undefeated. John L. Sullivan commented after the fight that Johnson won deservedly, fairly, and convincingly:



Jack Johnson arriving in Vancouver, B.C., on March 9, 1909 as World Heavyweight Champion



James J. Jeffries fights Johnson in 1910

The fight of the century is over and a black man is the undisputed champion of the world. It was a poor fight as fights go, this less than 15-round affair between James J. Jeffries and Jack Johnson. Scarcely has there ever been a championship contest that was so one-sided. All of Jeffries much-vaunted condition amounted to nothing. He wasn't in it from the first bell tap to the last ... The negro had few friends, but there was little demonstration against him. (Spectators) could not help but admire Johnson because he is the type of prizefighter that is admired by sportsmen. He played fairly at all times and fought fairly. ... What a crafty, powerful, cunning left hand (Johnson) has. He is one of the craftiest, cunningest boxers that ever stepped into the ring. ... They both fought closely all during the 15 rounds. It was just the sort of fight that Jeffries wanted. There was no running or ducking like Corbett did with me in New Orleans (1892). Jeffries did not miss so many blows, because he hardly started any. Johnson was on top of him all the time.... (Johnson) didn't get gay at all with Jeffries in the beginning, and it was always the white man who clinched, but Johnson was very careful, and he backed away and took no chances, and was good-natured with it all ... The best man won, and I was one of the first to congratulate him, and also one of the first to extend my heartfelt sympathy to the beaten man.^[4]

Riots and aftermath

The outcome of the fight triggered race riots that evening—the Fourth of July—all across the United States, from Texas and Colorado to New York and Washington, D.C. Johnson's victory over Jeffries had dashed white dreams of finding a "great white hope" to defeat him. Many whites felt humiliated by the defeat of Jeffries.^[5]

Blacks, on the other hand, were jubilant, and celebrated Johnson's great victory as a victory for racial advancement. Black poet William Waring Cuney later highlighted the black reaction to the fight in his poem "My Lord, What a Morning".^[37] Around the country, blacks held spontaneous parades and gathered in prayer meetings.

Race riots erupted in New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Atlanta, St. Louis, Little Rock and Houston. In all, riots occurred in more than 25 states and 50 cities. At least twenty people were killed across the US from the riots,^[38] and hundreds more were injured.^{[39][40][41][42][43][44][45][46][47]}

Film of the bout

The Johnson-Jeffries Fight film received more public attention in the United States than any other film to date and for the next five years, until the release of *The Birth of a Nation*.^[48]

In the United States, many states and cities banned the exhibition of the Johnson-Jeffries film. The movement to cancel Johnson's victory took over the country within three days after the fight.^[49] It was a spontaneous movement. Two weeks after the match former President Theodore Roosevelt, an avid boxer and fan, wrote an article for *The Outlook* in which he supported banning not just moving pictures of boxing matches, but a complete ban on all prize fights in the US. He cited the "crookedness" and gambling that surrounded such contests and that moving pictures have "introduced a new method of money getting and of demoralization".^[49] The controversy surrounding the film directly^[48] motivated Congress to ban distribution of all prizefight films across state lines in 1912; the ban was lifted in 1940.

In 2005, the film of the Jeffries-Johnson "Fight of the Century" was entered into the United States National Film Registry as being worthy of preservation.^[50]

The six fights for which the major films were made, starring Johnson, were:^[48]

- Johnson-Burns (film released in 1908)^[48]
- Johnson-Ketchel (film released in 1909)^[48]
- Johnson-Jeffries (film released in 1910)^[48]
- Johnson-Flynn (film released in 1912)^[48]
- Johnson-Moran (film released in 1914)^[48]
- Johnson-Willard (film released in 1915)^[48]

Maintaining the color bar

The color bar remained in force even under Johnson. Once he was the world's heavyweight champ, Johnson did not fight a black opponent for the first five years of his reign. He denied matches to black heavyweights Joe Jeanette (one of his successors as colored heavyweight champ), Sam Langford (who beat Jeanette for the colored title), and the young Harry Wills, who was colored heavyweight champ during the last year of Johnson's reign as world's heavyweight champ.



The *LA Times* noted the explosive nature of Johnson's victory by featuring this cartoon in which a stick of dynamite suggests that it would not have caused as much violence as the fight did.

Blacks were not given a chance at the title allegedly because Johnson felt that he could make more money fighting white boxers. In August 1913, as Johnson neared the end of his troubled reign as world heavyweight champ, there were rumors that he had agreed to fight Langford in Paris for the title, but it came to nought. Johnson said that Langford was unable to raise \$30,000 for his guarantee.

Because black boxers with the exception of Johnson had been barred from fighting for the heavyweight championship because of racism, Johnson's refusal to fight African-Americans offended the African-American community, since the opportunity to fight top white boxers was rare. Jeanette criticized Johnson, saying, "Jack forgot about his old friends after he became champion and drew the color line against his own people."^[51]

Johnson v. Johnson

When Johnson finally did agree to take on a black opponent in late 1913, it was not to Sam Langford, the current colored heavyweight champ, that he gave the title shot. Instead, Johnson chose Battling Jim Johnson, a lesser boxer who, in 1910, had lost to Langford and had a draw and loss via KO to Sam McVey, the former colored champ. Battling Jim fought former colored champ Joe Jeanette four times between July 19, 1912 and January 21, 1913 and lost all four fights. The only fighter of note he did beat in that period was future colored champ Big Bill Tate, whom he KO-ed in the second round of a scheduled 10-round bout. It was Tate's third pro fight.

In November 1913, the International Boxing Union had declared the world heavyweight title held by Jack Johnson to be vacant. The fight, scheduled for 10 rounds, was held on December 19, 1913 in Paris. It was the first time in history that two blacks had fought for the world heavyweight championship.

While the Johnson v. Johnson fight had been billed as a world heavyweight title match, in many ways, it resembled an exhibition. A sportswriter from the Indianapolis Star at the fight reported that the crowd became unruly when it was apparent that neither boxer was putting up a fight.

Jack Johnson, the heavyweight champion, and Battling Jim Johnson, another colored pugilist, of Galveston, Texas, met in a 10-round contest here tonight, which ended in a draw. The spectators loudly protested throughout that the men were not fighting, and demanded their money back. Many of them left the hall. The organizers of the fight explained the fiasco by asserting that Jack Johnson's left arm was broken in the third round. There is no confirmation of a report that Jack Johnson had been stabbed and no evidence at the ringside of such an accident. During the first three rounds he was obviously playing with his opponent. After that it was observed that he was only using his right hand. When the fight was over he complained that his arm had been injured. Doctors who made an examination, certified to a slight fracture of the radius of the left arm. The general opinion is that his arm was injured in a wrestling match early in the week, and that a blow tonight caused the fracture of the bone.^[52]

Because of the draw, Jack Johnson kept his championship. After the fight, he explained that his left arm was injured in the third round and he could not use it.

Title loss



Panorama of Willard - Johnson fight, Havana, Cuba

On April 5, 1915, Johnson lost his title to Jess Willard, a working cowboy from Kansas who started boxing when he was twenty-seven years old. With a crowd of 25,000 at Oriental Park Racetrack in Havana, Cuba, Johnson was knocked out in the 26th round of the scheduled 45 round fight. Johnson, although having won almost every round, began to tire after the 20th round, and was visibly hurt by heavy body punches from Willard in rounds preceding the 26th-round knockout.

Johnson is said by many to have spread rumors that he took a dive,^[53] but Willard is widely regarded as having won the fight outright. Many people thought Johnson purposely threw the fight because Willard was white, in an effort to have his Mann Act charges dropped. Willard said, "If he was going to throw the fight, I wish he'd done it sooner. It was hotter than hell out there."

Post-championship

After losing his world heavyweight championship, Johnson never again fought for the colored heavyweight crown. His popularity remained strong enough that he recorded for Ajax Records in the 1920s.^[54] Johnson continued fighting, but age was catching up with him. He fought professionally until 1938 at age 60 when he lost 7 of his last 9 bouts, losing his final fight to Walter Price by a 7th-round TKO. It is often suggested that any bouts after the age of 40—which was a very venerable age for boxing in those days—not be counted on his actual record, since he was performing in order to make a living. He also indulged in what was known as "cellar" fighting, where the bouts, unadvertised, were fought for private audiences, usually in cellars, or other unrecognized places. There are photographs existing of one of these fights. Johnson made his final ring appearance at age 67 on November 27, 1945, fighting three one-minute exhibition rounds against two opponents, Joe Jeanette and John Ballcort, in a benefit fight card for U.S. War Bonds.^{[55][56]}

Personal life



Jack Johnson, circa 1910-1915

Johnson earned considerable sums endorsing various products, including patent medicines, and had several expensive hobbies such as automobile racing and tailored clothing, as well as purchasing jewelry and furs for his wives.^[57] He challenged champion racer Barney Oldfield to a match auto race at the Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn dirt track. Oldfield easily out-distanced Johnson.^[58] Once, when he was pulled over for a \$50 speeding ticket, he gave the officer a \$100 bill; when the officer protested that he couldn't make change for that much, Johnson told him to keep the change as he was going to make his return trip at the same speed.^[5] In 1920, Johnson opened a night club in Harlem; he sold it three years later to a gangster, Owney Madden, who renamed it the Cotton Club.

Johnson's behavior was looked down upon by the African-American community, especially by the black scholar Booker T. Washington who said it "is unfortunate that a man with money should use it in a way to injure his own people, in the eyes of those who are seeking to uplift his race and improve its conditions, I wish to say emphatically that Jack Johnson's actions did not meet my personal approval and I am sure they do not meet with the approval of the colored race."

Johnson flouted conventions regarding the social and economic "place" of blacks in American society. As a black man, he broke a powerful taboo in consorting with white women and would verbally taunt men (both white and black) inside and outside the ring. Asked the secret of his staying power by a reporter who had watched a succession of women parade into, and out of, the champion's hotel room, Johnson supposedly said "Eat jellied eels

and think distant thoughts".^[59]

In 1911 Johnson, through an acquaintance, attempted to become a Freemason in Dundee. Although he was admitted as a member of the Forfar and Kincardine Lodge No 225 in the city, there was considerable opposition to his membership, principally on the grounds of his race, and the Forfarshire Lodge was suspended by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Johnson's fees were returned to him and his admission was ruled illegal.^[60]

Johnson wrote two memoirs of his life: *Mes combats* in 1914 and *Jack Johnson in the Ring and Out* in 1927.^[61]

In 1943, Johnson attended at least one service at the Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, California. In a public conversion, while Detroit, Michigan, burned in race riots, he professed his faith to Christ in a service conducted by evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson. She embraced him as "he raised his hand in worship".^{[62][63]}

Marriages

Johnson engaged in various relationships including three documented marriages. All of his wives were white. At the height of his career, Johnson was excoriated by the press for his flashy lifestyle and for having married white women.^[64]

According to Johnson's 1927 autobiography, he married Mary Austin, a black woman from Galveston, Texas. No record exists of this marriage.^[65]

While in Philadelphia in 1903, Johnson met Clara Kerr, a black prostitute. According to Johnson's autobiography, Kerr left him for Johnson's friend, a racehorse trainer named William Bryant. They took Johnson's jewelry and clothing when they left. Johnson tracked the couple down and had Kerr arrested on burglary charges. Johnson and Kerr reconciled for a while before she left him again.^[65]

During a three-month tour of Australia in 1907, Johnson had a brief affair with Alma "Lola" Toy, a white woman from Sydney. Johnson confirmed to an American journalist that he intended to marry Toy. When *The Referee* printed Johnson's plans to marry Toy, it caused controversy in Sydney. Toy demanded a retraction and later won a libel lawsuit from the newspaper.^[66]

After returning from Australia, Johnson said that "the heartaches which Mary Austin and Clara Kerr caused me led me to forswear colored women and to determine that my lot henceforth would be cast only with white women."^[65]

Johnson met Etta Terry Duryea, a Brooklyn socialite and former wife of Clarence Duryea, at a car race in 1909. In 1910, Johnson hired a private investigator to follow Duryea after suspecting she was having an affair with his chauffeur. On Christmas Day, Johnson confronted Duryea and beat her so badly she was hospitalized. They reconciled and were married in January 1911. Prone to depression, her condition worsened because of Johnson's abuse and infidelity. She committed suicide in September 1912, shooting herself.^{[65][67]} On December 4, 1912, Johnson married Lucille Cameron. Cameron divorced him in 1924 because of infidelity.

The next year, Johnson married Irene Pineau. When asked by a reporter at Johnson's funeral what she had loved about him, she replied, "I loved him because of his courage. He faced the world unafraid. There wasn't anybody or anything he feared."^[65]

Prison sentence



Johnson with his wife Lucille in 1921. Their relationship led to Johnson's first 1912 arrest.

On October 18, 1912, Johnson was arrested on the grounds that his relationship with Lucille Cameron violated the Mann Act against "transporting women across state lines for immoral purposes" due to her being an alleged prostitute. Her mother also swore that her daughter was insane.^[68] Cameron, soon to become his second wife, refused to cooperate and the case fell apart. Less than a month later, Johnson was arrested again on similar charges. This time, the woman, another alleged prostitute named Belle Schreiber,^[69] with whom he had been involved in 1909 and 1910, testified against him. In the courtroom of Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the future Commissioner of Baseball who perpetuated the baseball color line until his death, Johnson was convicted by an all-white jury in June 1913,^[70] despite the fact that the incidents used to convict him took place before passage of the Mann Act.^[5] He was sentenced to a year and a day in prison.



Johnson with his wife Etta, who killed herself in 1912

Johnson skipped bail and left the country, joining Lucille in Montreal on June 25, before fleeing to France. To flee to Canada, Johnson posed as a member of a black baseball team. For the next seven years, they lived in exile in Europe, South America and Mexico. Johnson returned to the U.S. on July 20, 1920. He surrendered to federal agents at the Mexican border and was sent to the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth to serve his sentence in September 1920.^[71] He was released on July 9, 1921.^[5]

Presidential pardon

There have been recurring proposals to grant Johnson a posthumous presidential pardon. A bill requesting President George W. Bush to pardon Johnson in 2008 passed the House,^[72] but failed to pass in the Senate.^[73] In April 2009, Senator John McCain, along with Representative Peter King, film maker Ken Burns and Johnson's great-niece, Linda Haywood, requested a presidential pardon for Johnson from President Barack Obama.^[74] In July of that year, Congress passed a resolution calling on President Obama to issue a pardon.^[75] In 2016, another petition for Johnson's pardon was issued by McCain, King, Senator Harry Reid and Congressman Gregory Meeks to President Obama, marking the 70th anniversary since the boxer's death.^[76] This time citing a provision of the Every Student Succeeds Act, signed by the president in December 2015, in which Congress expressed that this boxing great should receive a posthumous pardon, and a vote by the United States Commission on Civil Rights passed unanimously a week earlier in June 2016 to "right this century-old wrong."^[77]

Mike Tyson, Harry Reid and John McCain lent their support to the campaign, starting a Change.org petition asking President Obama to posthumously pardon the world's first African-American boxing champion of his racially motivated 1913 felony conviction.^[78]

In April 2018, President Donald Trump announced that he was considering a full pardon of Johnson after speaking with actor Sylvester Stallone.^[79] Trump pardoned Johnson on May 24 of that year.^[7]

Death

On June 10, 1946, Johnson died in a car crash on U.S. Highway 1 near Franklinton, North Carolina after racing angrily from a diner that refused to serve him.^[11] He was taken to the closest black hospital, Saint Agnes Hospital in Raleigh. He was 68 years old at the time of his death. He was buried next to Etta Duryea Johnson at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.^[12] His grave was initially unmarked, and then marked with a large stone that bore only the name "Johnson."^[80] This changed after 2005 and the film by Ken Burns. Johnson's (new, smaller) stone reads [top] "Jack / John A. Johnson / 1878-1946" [front] "First black heavyweight / champion of the world". Johnson's signature is on the back of the stone. Etta's stone, which matches his, is next to it. The stone marked "Johnson" once stood above the plots of Jack, Etta, and Irene Pineau.^[12]

Legacy

Johnson was an inaugural 1954 inductee to *The Ring* magazine's Boxing Hall of Fame (disbanded in 1987), and was inducted to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993. In 2005, the United States National Film Preservation Board deemed the film of the 1910 Johnson-Jeffries fight "historically significant" and put it in the National Film Registry.

During his boxing career, Jack Johnson fought 114 fights, winning 80 matches, 45 by knockouts.^[61]

In the short term, the boxing world reacted against Johnson's legacy. But Johnson foreshadowed one of the most famous boxers of all time, Muhammad Ali. In fact, Ali often spoke of how he was influenced by Jack Johnson. Ali identified with Johnson because he felt America ostracized him in the same manner because of his opposition to the Vietnam War and affiliation with the Nation of Islam.^[81]

In 2002, scholar Molefi Kete Asante listed Jack Johnson on his list of 100 Greatest African Americans.^[82]

In 2012, the City of Galveston dedicated a park in Johnson's memory as Galveston Island's most famous native son. The park, called Jack Johnson Park, includes a life-size, bronze statue of Johnson.^[83]

Popular culture

The first filmed fight of Johnson's career was his bout with Tommy Burns, which was turned into a contemporary documentary *The Burns-Johnson Fight* in 1908.

Folksinger and blues singer Lead Belly referenced Johnson in a song about the *Titanic*: "*Jack Johnson wanna get on board, Captain said I ain't hauling no coal. Fare thee, Titanic, fare thee well. When Jack Johnson heard that mighty shock, mighta seen the man do the Eagle rock. Fare thee, Titanic, fare thee well*" (The Eagle Rock was a popular dance at the time). In 1969, American folk singer Jaime Brockett reworked the Lead Belly song into a satirical talking blues called "The Legend of the S.S. Titanic." There is no convincing evidence that Johnson was in fact refused passage on the *Titanic* because of his race, as these songs allege.

Johnson's story is the basis of the play and subsequent 1970 movie *The Great White Hope*, starring James Earl Jones as Johnson (known as Jack Jefferson in the movie), and Jane Alexander as his love interest. Both Jones and Alexander were nominated for Oscars. (Retrieved from the sleeve. "The Great White Hope." Netflix DVD. 1970.)

Also in 1970, Jimmy Jacobs and Bill Cayton brought together much of the rare archive footage of Johnson which they had saved and restored, and made the film *Jack Johnson*, with Johnson's words voiced by Brock Peters, and music by Miles Davis. Davis' score later became the 1971 album named after the boxer. It features the actor Peters (as Johnson) saying:

I'm Jack Johnson. Heavyweight champion of the world.
I'm black. They never let me forget it.
I'm black all right! I'll never let them forget it!

In 2005, filmmaker Ken Burns produced a two-part documentary about Johnson's life, *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*, based on the 2004 nonfiction book of the same name by Geoffrey C. Ward, and with music by Wynton Marsalis. The book won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year (2006).^{[84][85]}

Jack Johnson's life was the subject of a three-part series of the podcast *History on Fire* by historian Daniele Bolelli.^[86]

Several hip-hop activists have also reflected on Johnson's legacy, most notably in the album *The New Danger*, by Mos Def, in which songs like "Zimzallabim" and "Blue Black Jack" are devoted to the artist's pugilistic hero. Additionally, both Southern punk rock band This Bike is a Pipe Bomb and alternative country performer Tom Russell have songs dedicated to Johnson. Russell's piece is both a tribute and a biting indictment of the racism Johnson faced: "*here comes Jack Johnson, like he owns the town, there's a lot of white Americans like to see a man go down ... like to see a black man drown.*"

"Big Strong Man" or "My Brother Sylveste" is an English-language folk song associated with Ireland referencing the "Jeffries-Johnson fight" of 1910 with the lyric: "Have you heard about the Jeffrey Johnson fight?/Oh, Lord what a hell of a fight." The song was popular with Canadian soldiers in World War II.

In the trenches of World War One, Johnson's name was used by British troops to describe the impact of German 150 mm heavy artillery shells which had a black color.^[87] In his letters home to his wife, Rupert Edward Inglis (1863–1916), a former rugby international who was a Forces Chaplain, describes passing through the town of Albert:

We went through the place today (2 October 1915) where the Virgin Statue at the top of the Church was hit by a shell in January. The statue was knocked over, but has never fallen, I sent you a picture of it. It really is a wonderful sight. It is incomprehensible how it can have stayed there, but I think it is now lower than when the photograph was taken, and no doubt will come down with the next gale. The Church and village are wrecked, there's a huge hole made by a Jack Johnson just outside the west door of the Church.^[88]

Jack Johnson was painted several times by [Raymond Saunders](#).

In [Joe R. Lansdale](#)'s short story *The Big Blow*, Johnson is featured fighting a white boxer brought in by Galveston, Texas's boxing fans to defeat the African American fighter during the [1900 Galveston Hurricane](#). The story won a [Bram Stoker Award](#) and was expanded into a novel.^[89]

Johnson is a major character in the novel *The Killings of Stanley Ketchel* (2005), by [James Carlos Blake](#).

































The Royale, a play by [Marco Ramirez](#), uses the life of Jack Johnson as inspiration for its main character, Jay Jackson. It premiered in March 2016 at [Lincoln Center Theater](#) directed by [Rachel Chavkin](#),^[90] and was nominated for a Drama Desk Awards for [Outstanding Play](#), [Outstanding Director of a Play](#), and a Special Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Ensemble.^[91]

Professional boxing record






Professional record summary		
79 fights	56 wins	11 losses
By knockout	35	6
By decision	21	5
Draws	10	
No contests	2	

No.	Result	Record	Opponent	Type	Round, time	Date	Location	Notes
103	Exhibition	73–13–10	 John Ballcort	Exh	3 (10)	November 27, 1945	 New York, NY	
102	Exhibition	73–13–10	 Joe Jeanette	Exh	3 (10)	November 27, 1945	 New York, NY	
101	Loss	73–13–10	 Walter Price	KO	7 (10)	September 1, 1938	 Boston, MA	
100	Win	73–12–10	 Dick Anderson	KO	3	November 29, 1932	 Chicago, IL	
99	Win	72–12–10	 Brad Simmons	KO	2	April 28, 1931	 Wichita, KS	
98	Loss	71–12–10	 Brad Simmons	Decision	10	March 4, 1931	 Newport, VT	
97	Loss	71–11–10	 Bill Hartwell	TKO	6 (10)	May 15, 1928	 Kansas City, MO	Johnson did not continue after the sixth round.
96	Loss	71–10–10	 Bearcat Wright	KO	5 (10)	April 16, 1928	 Topeka, KS	Wright's real name was Ed Wright.
95	Loss	71–9–10	 Brad Simmons	Decision	10	September 6, 1926	 Ponca City, OK	
94	Loss	71–8–10	 Battling Norfolk	Decision	10	July 1, 1926	Unknown	
93	Loss	71–7–10	 Bob Lawson	TKO	7 (12)	May 30, 1926	 Juárez, MEX	Johnson did not continue after the seventh round.
92	Win	71–6–10	 Pat Lester	Decision	15	May 2, 1926	 Nogales, MEX	
91	Win	70–6–10	 Homer Smith	Decision	10	February 22, 1924	 Montreal, CAN	
90	Win	69–6–10	 Jack Thompson	Decision	12	May 20, 1923	 Havana, CUB	
89	Win	68–6–10	 Farmer Lodge	KO	4	May 6, 1923	 Havana, CUB	Lodge's real name was Walter Fakeskie.
88	Win	67–6–10	 Joe Boykin	KO	5	May 28, 1921	 Leavenworth, KS	
87	Win	66–6–10	 Jack Townsend	KO	6	April 15, 1921	 Leavenworth, KS	
86	Win	65–5–10	 John Thomas "Topeka Jack" Johnson	Decision	4	November 25, 1920	 Leavenworth, KS	
85	Win	64–6–10	 Frank Owens	KO	6 (6)	November 25, 1920	 Leavenworth, KS	









84	Win	63–6–10	 <u>George Roberts</u>	KO	3	September 28, 1920	 <u>Tijuana, MEX</u>	
83	Win	62–6–10	<u>Bob Wilson</u>	KO	3	April 18, 1920	 <u>Mexicali, MEX</u>	
82	Win	61–6–10	 <u>Marty Cutler</u>	KO	6 (25)	September 28, 1919	 <u>Mexico City, MEX</u>	
81	Win	60–6–10	 <u>Tom Cowler</u>	KO	15 (15)	August 10, 1919	 <u>Nuevo Laredo, MEX</u>	
80	Win	59–6–10	 <u>Bob Roper</u>	Decision	10	June 22, 1919	 <u>Mexico City, MEX</u>	
79	Win	58–6–10	<u>Bill Flint</u>	KO	2	February 12, 1919	 <u>Madrid, ESP</u>	
78	Win	57–6–10	 <u>Blink McCloskey</u>	Decision	4	April 3, 1918	 <u>Madrid, ESP</u>	
77	Win	56–6–10	 <u>Arthur Cravan</u>	KO	6 (20)	April 23, 1916	 <u>Barcelona, ESP</u>	
76	Win	55–6–10	 <u>Frank Crozier</u>	TKO	Unknown	March 23, 1916	 <u>Madrid, ESP</u>	
70	Loss	54–6–10	 <u>Jess Willard</u>	KO	26 (45), 1:26	April 5, 1915	 <u>Havana, CUB</u>	Lost lineal heavyweight title
75	Win	54–5–10	 <u>Jack Murray</u>	KO	3 (10)	December 15, 1914	 <u>Buenos Aires, ARG</u>	
74	Win	53–5–10	 <u>Frank Moran</u>	Decision	20	June 27, 1914	 <u>Paris, FRA</u>	Retained lineal heavyweight title
73	Draw	52–5–10	 <u>Jim Johnson</u>	Draw	10	December 19, 1913	 <u>Paris, FRA</u>	Retained lineal havyweight title
72	Win	52–5–9	 <u>Jim Flynn</u>	TKO	9 (45)	July 4, 1912	 <u>Las Vegas, New Mexico</u>	Retained lineal heavyweight title
71	Win	51–5–9	 <u>James J. Jeffries</u>	TKO	15 (45), 2:20	July 4, 1910	 <u>Reno, NV</u>	Retained lineal heavyweight title
70	Win	50–5–9	 <u>Stanley Ketchel</u>	KO	12 (15)	October 16, 1909	 <u>Colma, CA</u>	Retained lineal heavyweight title
69	Win	49–5–9	 <u>Al Kaufmann</u>	Decision	10	September 9, 1909	 <u>San Francisco, CA</u>	Retained lineal heavyweight title Decision given in an <i>Associated Press</i> report.
68	Win	48–5–9	 <u>Tony Ross</u>	Decision	6	June 30, 1909	 <u>Pittsburgh, PA</u>	Retained lineal heavyweight title Decision given by <i>The Washington Post</i> .
67	Draw	47–5–9	 <u>Jack O'Brien</u>	Draw	6	May 19, 1909	 <u>Philadelphia, PA</u>	Retained lineal heavyweight title

								Newspapers reported differing results.
66	Exhibition	47–5–8	 <u>Victor McLaglen</u>	Exh	6	March 10, 1909	 <u>British Columbia, CAN</u>	
65	Win	47–5–8	 <u>Tommy Burns</u>	Decision	14	December 26, 1908	 <u>Sydney, AUS</u>	Won lineal <u>heavyweight</u> title
64	Win	46–5–8	 <u>Ben Taylor</u>	TKO	8 (20)	July 31, 1908	 <u>Plymouth, ENG</u>	
63	Win	45–5–8	 <u>Jim Flynn</u>	KO	11 (45), 1:30	November 6, 1907	 <u>San Francisco, CA</u>	
62	Win	44–5–8	 <u>Sailor Burke</u>	Decision	6	September 12, 1907	 <u>Bridgeport, CT</u>	Decision given by the <i>Fort Wayne Journal Gazette</i> .
61	Win	43–5–8	 <u>Kid Cutler</u>	KO	1	August 28, 1907	 <u>Reading, PA</u>	
60	Win	42–5–8	 <u>Bob Fitzsimmons</u>	KO	2 (6)	July 17, 1907	 <u>Philadelphia, PA</u>	
59	Win	41–5–8	 <u>Bill Lang</u>	TKO	9 (20)	March 4, 1907	 <u>Melbourne, AUS</u>	
58	Win	40–5–8	 <u>Peter Felix</u>	KO	1 (20)	February 19, 1907	 <u>Sydney, AUS</u>	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
57	Draw	39–5–8	 <u>Joe Jeanette</u>	Decision	10	November 26, 1906	 <u>Portland, ME</u>	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
56	Win	39–5–7	 <u>Jim Jeffords</u>	Decision	6	November 8, 1906	 <u>Lancaster, PA</u>	
55	Win	38–5–7	 <u>Joe Jeanette</u>	Decision	6	September 20, 1906	 <u>Philadelphia, PA</u>	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title. Decision given by the <i>Kennebec Journal</i> .
54	Draw	37–5–7	 <u>Billy Dunning</u>	Draw	10	September 3, 1906	 <u>Millinocket, ME</u>	
53	Win	37–5–6	 <u>Charlie Haghey</u>	KO	2 (12)	June 18, 1906	 <u>Gloucester, MA</u>	
52	Win	36–5–6	 <u>Sam Langford</u>	Decision	15	April 26, 1906	 <u>Chelsea, MA</u>	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
51	Win	35–5–6	 <u>Black</u>	KO	7 (10)	April 16,	 <u>Wilkes-</u>	Black Bill's real

			Bill			1906	<u>Barre, PA</u>	name was Claude Brooks.
50	Win	34–5–6	 Joe Jeanette	Decision	15	March 14, 1906	 <u>Baltimore, MD</u>	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
49	Win	33–5–6	 Bob Kerns	KO	1 (10)	January 26, 1906	 Topeka, KS	
48	Win	32–5–6	 Joe Jeanette	Decision	3	January 16, 1906	 New York City, <u>NY</u>	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title. Decision given by the <i>Boston Globe</i> .
47	NC	31–5–6	 Joe Jeanette	No decision	6	December 2, 1905	 Philadelphia, PA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
46	Win	31–5–6	 Young Peter Jackson	Decision	12	December 1, 1905	 Baltimore, MD	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title. Decision given by the <i>Durango Democrat</i> and <i>New York World</i> .
45	Loss	30–5–6	 Joe Jeanette	Disqualification	2	November 25, 1905	 Philadelphia, PA	World Colored Heavyweight title was on the line. Johnson continued to claim the title due to losing by disqualification.
44	Win	30–4–6	 Joe Grim	Decision	6	July 24, 1905	 Philadelphia, PA	Decision given by the <i>Fort Wayne Journal Gazette</i> .
43	Win	29–4–6	 Sandy Ferguson	Disqualification	7 (15)	July 18, 1905	 Chelsea, MA	Ferguson was disqualified for delivering a knee twice to Johnson's groin.
42	Win	28–4–6	 Morris Harris	Decision	3	July 13, 1905	 Philadelphia, PA	
41	Win	27–4–6	 Black Bill	KO	1 (3)	July 13, 1905	 Philadelphia, PA	
40	Win	26–4–6	 Jack Munroe	Decision	6	June 26, 1905	 Philadelphia, PA	Decision given by the <i>Fort Wayne Journal Gazette</i> .
39	NC	25–4–6	 Joe Jeanette	No decision	6	May 19, 1905	 Philadelphia,	

							PA	
38	Win	25–4–6	 Walter Johnson	KO	3	May 9, 1904	 Philadelphia, PA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
37	Draw	24–4–6	 Joe Jeanette	Draw	3	May 9, 1904	 Philadelphia, PA	The fight was declared even by both the <i>New York World</i> and <i>Washington Times</i> .
36	Win	24–4–5	 Black Bill	KO	4 (6)	May 2, 1904	 Philadelphia, PA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
35	Win	23–4–5	 Jim Jeffords	KO	4 (6)	April 25, 1905	 Philadelphia, PA	
34	Loss	22–4–5	 Marvin Hart	Decision	20	March 28, 1905	 San Francisco, CA	
33	Win	22–3–5	 Ed Martin	KO	2 (20)	October 18, 1904	 Los Angeles, CA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
32	Win	21–3–5	 Frank Childs	Decision	6	June 2, 1904	 Chicago, Illinois	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
31	Win	20–3–5	 Sam McVey	KO	20 (20)	April 22, 1904	 San Francisco, CA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
30	Win	19–3–5	 Black Bill	Decision	6	February 15, 1904	 Philadelphia, PA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title. Decision given by the <i>Philadelphia Item</i> .
29	NC	18–3–5	 Sandy Ferguson	No contest	5	February 6, 1904	 Philadelphia, PA	The referee left the ring claiming the fighters were "faking."
28	Win	18–3–5	 Sandy Ferguson	Decision	20	December 11, 1903	 Colma, CA	
27	Win	17–3–5	 Sam McVey	Decision	20	October 27, 1903	 Los Angeles, CA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title.
26	Win	16–3–5	 Sandy Ferguson	Decision	6	July 31, 1903	 Philadelphia, PA	Decision given by the <i>New York World</i> .
25	Win	15–3–5	 Joe Butler	KO	3	May 11, 1903	 Philadelphia, PA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title

24	Win	14–3–5	 <u>Sandy Ferguson</u>	Decision	10	April 16, 1903	 Boston, MA	
23	Win	13–3–5	 <u>Sam McVey</u>	Decision	20	February 26, 1903	 Los Angeles, CA	Retained World Colored Heavyweight title
22	Win	12–3–5	 <u>Ed Martin</u>	Decision	20	February 5, 1903	 Los Angeles, CA	Won World Colored Heavyweight title
21	Win	11–3–5	 <u>Fred Russell</u>	Disqualification	8	December 4, 1902	 Los Angeles, CA	Russell was disqualified for several low blows.
20	Win	10–3–5	 <u>George Gardiner</u>	Decision	20	October 31, 1902	 San Francisco, CA	
19	Win	9–3–5	 <u>Frank Childs</u>	TKO	12	October 21, 1902	 Los Angeles, CA	
18	Win	8–3–5	 <u>Pete Everett</u>	Decision	20	September 3, 1902	 Victor, CO	
17	Draw	7–3–5	 <u>Hank Griffin</u>	Draw	20	June 20, 1902	 Los Angeles, CA	
16	Win	7–3–4	 <u>Jack Jeffries</u>	KO	5	May 16, 1902	 Los Angeles, CA	
15	Win	6–3–4	 <u>Joe Kennedy</u>	KO	4 (15)	March 7, 1902	 Oakland, CA	
14	Win	5–3–4	 <u>Dan Murphy</u>	KO	10	February 7, 1902	 Waterbury, CT	
13	Draw	4–3–4	 <u>Hank Griffin</u>	Draw	15	December 27, 1901	 Oakland, CA	
12	Loss	4–3–3	 <u>Hank Griffin</u>	Decision	20	November 4, 1901	 Bakersfield, CA	
11	Draw	4–2–3	 <u>Billy Stiff</u>	Draw	10	April 26, 1901	 Denver, CO	
10	Loss	4–2–2	 <u>Joe Choyinski</u>	KO	3 (20)	February 25, 1901	 Galveston, TX	
9	Draw	4–1–2	 <u>Jim Scanlon</u>	Draw	7	January 14, 1901	 Galveston, TX	
8	Win	4–1–1	 <u>Klondike</u>	TKO	14 (20)	December 27, 1900	 Memphis, TN	
7	Draw	3–1–1	 <u>Klondike</u>	Draw	20	June 25, 1900	 Galveston, TX	
6	Win	3–1	 <u>Jim McCormick</u>	Disqualification	6 (20)	April 20, 1900	 Galveston, TX	
5	NC	2–1	 <u>William McNeill</u>	No decision	4	April 9, 1900	 Galveston,	

							TX	
4	NC	2–1	 Jim McCormick	No decision	15	March 21, 1900	 Galveston, TX	
3	Loss	2–1	 Klondike	TKO	5 (6)	May 8, 1899	 Chicago, Illinois	
2	Win	2–0	 Ed Johnson	KO	5	Nov 20, 1898	 Galveston, TX	Retained Texas State Middleweight title
1	Win	1–0	 Charley Brooks	KO	2 (15)	Nov 01, 1898	 Galveston, TX	Won Texas State Middleweight title.

See also

- List of lineal boxing world champions
- List of heavyweight boxing champions

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External links

- Professional boxing record for Jack Johnson (<http://boxrec.com/en/boxer/001187>) from BoxRec
- Sporting Mavericks Hall of Fame (<http://sportingmaverickshalloffame.blogspot.co.uk/search/label/Jack%20Johnson>)
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Awards and achievements		
Preceded by <u>Ed Martin</u>	<u>World Colored Heavyweight Championship</u> February 5, 1903 – December 26, 1908	Succeeded by <u>Sam McVey</u> Won vacant title
Preceded by <u>Tommy Burns</u>	<u>World Heavyweight Champion</u> December 26, 1908 – April 5, 1915	Succeeded by <u>Jess Willard</u>
Records		
Preceded by <u>Bob Fitzsimmons</u>	<u>Oldest World Heavyweight Champion</u> April 14, 1914 – January 4, 1919	Succeeded by <u>Jess Willard</u>

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