



Dr. Harry A. March

This article was written by Alan March.

Born December 11, 1875, Harry Addison March was the youngest of six children of Henry Clay March and Sarah McLaughlin March, of New Franklin, Ohio, north of Canton, Ohio. Harry's life was filled with six careers, which often overlapped: journalist, physician, theatrical impresario, politician, soldier, and organizer of professional football. Upon his death in 1940, newspapers across the nation proclaimed the death of the "Father of Professional Football."ⁱ, ⁱⁱ

Harry's father, Henry, was a lieutenant in the 115th Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. When he enlisted, he was a farmer and the postmaster of New Franklin. Post-war, Henry dipped his toes into the political pool as the Republican candidate for Stark County sheriff in 1873. He lost in an ugly campaign.ⁱⁱⁱ, ^{iv} Five years later, his political ties helped him secure a clerkship in the US Treasury Department in Washington, D. C. Chief among those ties was Congressman (later president) William McKinley, Jr.^v Henry worked in Washington, D. C. for the next 20 years, often returning home for visits.

All of Harry's siblings, except the oldest, Annie, had advanced college degrees. Two were physicians, one was a dentist, and one was an attorney. Harry quipped in 1914, "My mother said she had the lawyer to keep the doctors out of jail."^{vi} Harry's humor was shaped in part by his love of Mark Twain and his life-long friendship with author, columnist, and playwright, Don Marquis.



1894-Mt Union team-Harry A. March back row 4th from right



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Graduating from high school in 1890, Harry attended Mount Union College, in Alliance, Ohio, earning his degree in 1895. Mount Union provided Harry a progressive education with many opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities. It was where Harry honed his writing skills and his love of sport, including tennis and football. Harry played fullback on Mount Union's first official football team in 1893. The next year, he remained on the field, but as a referee.^{vii, viii}

Upon graduation, Harry became a full time newspaperman covering stories in and around Canton. The biggest stories of the time were McKinley's successful presidential campaign in 1896 and the Spanish-American War. When McKinley's inaugural train left Canton in March of 1897, Harry was with him, as were many other reporters.^{ix} The next year, Harry traveled to Montauk Point on Long Island, New York, and spent more than a week at Camp Wikoff reporting on the lives of soldiers from Stark and Summit counties Ohio as they returned from the brief Spanish-American War. His dispatches were energetic, lively, and often on the front page of the *Canton Repository*.^x

At some point, William McKinley told Harry, "Reporters are lounge lizards!"^{xi} To avoid becoming a reptile, Harry followed his father to Washington and enrolled in the medical school at Columbian College (now George Washington University). He picked up spending money working as a part-time theater critic for the *Washington Times*, under editor Channing Pollack, who would go on to a successful career as a playwright and author and remained a life-long friend to Harry.^{xii}

Upon receiving his medical degree in 1901, Harry returned to Canton, married, and opened a medical practice. His love of sport led him to coach football at Canton High School in the 1903-1904 season.^{xiii} The next year, Harry was elected to the Canton School Board. That same year, Harry was appointed as Stark County's coroner, a position he would hold for six years.^{xiv}

The rivalry between Canton and nearby Massillon, Ohio, was expressed most powerfully through football. Athletic clubs in both cities sponsored football teams, paying men to play primarily so they could defeat each other. Harry served as the physician for the Canton team, which in 1905 and 1906 had various names including the Pro's, the Giants,^{xv} and the name, which is most famous, the Bulldogs.^{xvi} Travelling to game sites across Ohio and Pennsylvania, Harry met players, team owners, and managers throughout the region. A notorious betting scandal involving the Massillon and Canton teams in 1906, and the simple cost of doing business, essentially killed pro football in Canton for the next several years.

Harry was tireless. While holding two elective positions, running his medical practice, and aiding injured football players, Harry pursued his love of theater. In 1906, he formed



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the Popular Amusement Company which became an umbrella company for several traveling musical theater troupes. The first was the American Stock Company, which Harry called simply, "The Americans." Harry's companies brought older Broadway shows to small and mid-sized towns in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.^{xvii} His ability to find and develop talent led him to spin-off other companies built around some of his stars. In 1914, Harry moved to New York, with an office at Times Square, the heart of America's theater industry.^{xviii} He would remain a New Yorker for the next twenty-five years.



Dr Harry A March, circa 1903-1906

At the same time he was doctoring football players and producing musical theater, Harry's political ambitions grew beyond the school board and coroner's office. In April of 1912, Harry was elected by Stark County Republicans to be a delegate for Teddy Roosevelt at the Republican National Convention that year. In the next two months, Harry and other Roosevelt supporters gained control of the Stark County Republican Committee and elected Harry as the party chairman.^{xix} When the GOP nominated William Howard Taft for a second term that June, Harry and other disgruntled members walked out of the convention and formed the Progressive Party to support Roosevelt's return to the Oval office. Roosevelt lost as did Taft. Despite that, Harry remained the Stark County Republican Chairman for the time being. In the spring of 1913, Harry resigned and was nominated by the Stark County Progressive Party to run for mayor of Canton. After a twenty-four hour candidacy, Harry left politics to concentrate on his theatrical businesses.^{xx} It was a good choice for Harry.

Harry's last theater company was March's Musical Merry Makers, which opened in 1916. Advertising in industry publications Harry sought hard workers who understood, "sobriety (is) the first essential." When the USA entered the Great War, he began losing actors and staff to the military.^{xxi} The military mobilization of railroads made travel



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difficult for the Merry Markers which used two full train cars to carry scenery and wardrobe. Harry closed his Merry Makers in August 1918 and enlisted at the age of 42. The *Washington Sunday Star* offered, "All honor to March's Musical Merry Makers," and Dr. March for disbanding the troupe and enlisting to serve his country.^{xxii}

As a lieutenant in the US Army's Medical Corps, Harry was assigned to Camp Greenleaf in Northern Georgia during his brief time in the service. He must have enjoyed the life of a soldier, because after being discharged he enlisted in the New York National Guard and remained in the Guard until 1927.^{xxiii} By that time, he was busy building a legendary football team.

Harry kept connected to football. He attended games in and around New York, particularly the annual Army-Navy games, as his son was a cadet at West Point from 1922 to 1926.^{xxiv} Obtaining tickets to those wildly popular games was nearly impossible for the common man. A discussion on that topic with his local mail man led Harry to try to bring professional football to New York City. But he needed an angel to help him build a team in the nation's largest city.^{xxv}

Harry began seeking a financial backer in January 1924.^{xxvi} He wangled himself a ticket to the New York Baseball Writers Association inaugural banquet at the Commodore Hotel. There, he approached boxing and sports promoter Tex Rickard, suggesting Rickard get into football. Rickard declined Harry's offer and Harry kept looking.^{xxvii}

The American Professional Football Association was founded in Canton in 1920. A year later, sports organizer Joe F. Carr was elected league president and operated the league's business out of his Columbus office. Then the league was renamed the National Football League in 1922. To make the NFL a truly national league, Carr needed a successful team in the nation's largest city. Carr's and Harry's ambitions merged in 1925.

It is not clear how Harry obtained a franchise, but in May of 1925, Joe Carr traveled to New York. Together, he and Harry approached New York's well-known boxing promoter Billy Gibson. In Gibson's office the two Ohioans explained that pro football would one day be as big as professional baseball. Gibson may have been interested, but he had lost thousands of dollars backing a football team a few years earlier, so he declined.^{xxviii} Also in that meeting was bookmaker and promoter Tim Mara. Gibson suggested that Mara might be interested in buying the franchise.

"What does it cost?" asked Mara.

"Five hundred dollars," was the reply.



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"A New York franchise for anything is worth five hundred bucks," Mara responded. He pulled out his check book and started writing. As he handed over the draft, Mara added, "Now that I've got a franchise, what do I do with it? I've never seen a football game." Harry answered with quiet confidence, "You leave that to me." Mara hired Harry as his football guru and the New York Football Giants were born.^{xxix}

Seeing that Mara was all-in, Gibson relented and joined the venture. Gibson was named president and Mara the treasurer. Harry was appointed secretary. Gibson would be the front man while Harry built the team using Mara's money. Though named the secretary, Harry could have also been labeled the manager, scout, press agent, team doc, and factotum.

As he did with all his work, Harry threw himself into the daunting task of building a new team from the ground up. His knowledge of football players helped him secure well-known, talented men, many of whom had played in and around New York. Among the earliest recruits was his friend, fellow physician, Dr. Joe Alexander. Alexander had been an All-American lineman while at Syracuse.^{xxx} Harry also hired Bob Folwell to coach his all-stars. Folwell had been a four-year player at Pennsylvania and later a successful coach, most recently for Navy at Annapolis.

On August 1, 1925, Harry attended the first of many NFL meetings. In a meeting room of Chicago's Hotel Sherman, Harry heard his team's formal acceptance into the National Football League. Immediately, Harry became active in league business. He made two motions which passed and was appointed to a committee to discuss creating two rival sub-divisions in the league.^{xxxi} In the following years, Harry would remain active and vocal at league meetings, eventually being elected several times to the league's Executive Committee.

On September 9, 1925, Coach Folwell, Billy Gibson, and Harry held a conference for New York's press corps at the swanky Hotel Alamac. Folwell proclaimed that his team of college stars would provide the public "some spectacular football." Gibson and Harry pointed out that their team would in no way interfere with college football. Harry spoke to the hearts of football fans when he said, "We mean to give New York a good, clean, hard game of football of the highest type." The team, named the All Collegians (and the Giants) would play their home games at the city's famous Polo Grounds. The entire season's schedule was laid out, with the final home game to be against the Chicago Bears on December 6.^{xxxii}

Through that first season Harry continued to ask Mara for money and Mara provided it. Mara spent thousands by the time the first game was played. Near the season's end the



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Giants were awash in red ink. That was when George Halas brought his Chicago Bears and Red Grange to New York.

Red Grange's reputation as a phenomenal running back made him the talk of the nation. Grange secured his fame in 1924, when he scored four touchdowns in twelve minutes against reigning national champion Michigan. After his final game for Illinois in 1925, Grange signed to play for the Chicago Bears without graduating. This created a furor in collegiate sports circles, but made pro football even more popular among the common man. Everyone wanted to see Grange play.

As many as 70,000 fans filled the Polo Grounds; some reportedly in the rafters of that fabled venue. Working class people and New York notables, including Tex Rickard, packed the house.^{xxxiii}

NFL President Joe F. Carr was on the New York bench, getting a coach's perspective. Carr's presence demonstrated how vitally important the success of the New York franchise was to the success of the league itself. Less than two weeks earlier, Carr had been hospitalized in critical condition for acute appendicitis. A Columbus area paper reported, "doubt was expressed for his recovery."^{xxxiv} Yet, Carr made the trip and watched the game.

Harry's years of showmanship and theatrical production were on display. The ballpark was festooned with colorful bunting and flags. Basile's Regimental Marching Band played, "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!" creating a communal feeling of excitement in the stands. Scarlet and blue feathers were handed out for fans to wave in support of the New York team. Harry wore the feathers in his hat, "Indian fashion," on the sidelines. The Giants lost 19-7, but won at the ticket office. Proceeds from the "Grange Game," made the Giants solvent for the year. Pro football had turned a profit in New York City.^{xxxv}

At the NFL's February meeting Harry proposed that the NFL should meet with the Intercollegiate Committee on Athletics (ICA), to build a bridge to that body and assure them that pro football and college football could not only co-exist, but thrive without harming the college game. Joe Carr appointed Harry to the committee along with George Halas and George "Peggy" Parrat, of Cleveland.^{xxxvi} The committee met the ICA in July. Chairman of the ICA, General Palmer Pierce, reported that the professional game's policies are, "in line with what we want." Harry's insistence on meeting the problem head-on succeeded.^{xxxvii}

During a trip to Florida in January 1926 Harry witnessed Oklahoman Steve Owen's powerful line play. He persuaded Mara to hire Owen. After Owen's first year with the



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Giants coach Earl Potteiger and Harry made Owen captain of the team. Of that, Owen said, "I considered that captaincy quite an honor."^{xxxviii} By 1931 Owen was the coach, a role in which he continued for more than two decades. Owen built a Hall of Fame career as he created a dynasty of defense and championships for the Giants.

Harry operated the Giants from his Manhattan apartment. The place also served as a sort of club house for many of the team's members. In his 1952 memoirs, *My Kind of Football*, Owen described it:

"All the players moved in on him from time to time, and the feature of the whole layout was a big check book on the Doc's desk. It was always available to team members who needed advances on their pay. We kept Doc busy writing. But he enjoyed it..."^{xxxix}

A sportswriter for the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph* described visiting Dr. March's apartment: "Owen was giving a strategy talk to the entire Giants squad while Harry was in a back room playing chess with his old friend, Don Marquis."^{xl} These recollections of Harry's home conjure up the image of a happy fraternity house filled with young men in which Harry was the house father, building a strong team culture of fellowship, trust, and unity.

By 1928, Harry was elevated to president, replacing Tim Mara. Mara had succeeded Gibson who had faded from the scene. Mara was learning football and adding his business acumen to mix. Together, he and Harry built a team which won league championships and became profitable. The success of the New York Football Giants lent stability, strength, and credibility to the entire National Football League.

However, by 1932, Harry left the Giants. Covering that story, the *New York Herald-Tribune* said Harry was, "known from coast to coast as a square shooter," and respected by all who knew him. It was reported he was going to concentrate on his medical practice. Mara's son, Jack, fresh from law school, took over as team president. Harry was out and any financial interest which he may have owned in the Giants was gone. Harry remained on the NFL's Executive Committee and expressed no hard feelings about leaving the Giants. At least he was still in the game.^{xli}

That changed in 1934. At the June 30th league meeting the NFL's Executive Committee awarded the contract of Fordham full back Ed Danowski to the Giants. George P. Marshall, owner of the Washington Redskins "argued vehemently," that his team owned Danowski. The disagreement was loud and long, but eventually, Bert Bell, owner of the Philadelphia Eagles calmed the two sides.^{xlii} But Marshall was not done.



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The next day, a special meeting of the NFL's owners was held. Marshall made the motion to abolish the Executive Committee of which Harry had long been a member. He proposed replacing it with a Finance Committee composed of only those who held controlling interest in teams. As Harry had no financial interest in any team, this would exclude him from the new committee. Ironically, the motion was referred for consideration to the NFL's Executive Committee on which Harry sat. The Executive Committee ruled the motion was in good order and referred it back to the main membership for a vote. All votes, except one, approved the motion. That one "nay," came from Jack Mara of the New York Giants.^{xliii} Harry was out of the NFL.

The NFL continued to grow, and the national press was paying more attention as the Giants success showed New York City would support a pro team. In December 1933, the national magazine, *Literary Digest*, ran an article, "Increasing Popularity of Professional Football." The article briefly retells how pro football evolved in the US, though the story opens in Tim Mara's office. Mara is quoted as saying, "Dr. March was looking for an angel, and I was it." The article claims, "The story of professional football is closely linked to the story of Dr. Harry A. March." It described Harry on the sidelines and the genesis of the Giants. Beneath a photo of Harry is the caption, "The Father of Professional Football."^{xliv} One suspects that Tim Mara and Harry were the two primary sources of information for the article.



Harry's photo which appeared in Dec 1933 *Literary Digest*

A month after that article appeared, Harry wrote to Lud Wray, then coach of the Philadelphia Eagles. The *Literary Digest* story inspired Harry to write a history of pro football and he was seeking information from Wray. Harry explained why he should write the book: "Only President Carr and myself of the present League organization, are old enough to know about the early days..." Reflecting on his own mortality, Harry wrote,



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"...and if we are laid-out or played out, who will go to the trouble of doing the research...?" Harry's greatest motivation was made clear when he wrote to Wray, "With me, it will be largely a labor of love..." The result was the book, *Pro Football, Its Ups and Downs*.^{xlv}

Harry contacted team owners and players, seeking rosters, schedules, and photographs. Red Grange provided an autographed photo of himself with the inscription, "Sincerely to my friend, Doc March. A square shooter and a real sport. 'Red' Grange."^{xlvi}

Noted cartoonist Burriss Jenkins created original artwork to illuminate points Harry made in the book. Popular sportswriters Paul Gallico, Bill Corum, and the legendary Grantland Rice provided supporting material. In his introduction to the book, Rice wrote that Harry, "...has been justly named THE FATHER OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL."^{xlvii}

Jack Mara asked the NFL to purchase 100 copies of Harry's book, which was approved.^{xlviii} These would be handed out to promote the League and the game. In the years which followed, the book became the go-to resource for sportswriters and fans who wanted to know how pro football developed and grew.

In more recent years, Harry's book has been cited for inaccuracies or omissions.^{xlix} Some critics say Harry did little-to-no research or relied upon his own faulty memory in his writing. An early critic was Jack Cusack, who managed the Canton Bulldogs to great success in the 1910s. In his 1963 memoirs, Cusack wrote that Harry's book, "...is something of a historical novel." However, he never explained what that means.¹

It is clear Harry *did* do research. His January 1934 letter to Lud Wray was the beginning of that. Another letter to Wray sought more information and shared discoveries Harry's research had uncovered. Doctor John Brallier of Pennsylvania corresponded with Harry. Brallier admitted being paid to play in 1895, an era when such a thing was scorned.

Doctor Brallier provided Harry with a photo of himself as he was in 1934. That photo appears in Harry's book with the caption, "first confessed pro football player."ⁱⁱ Decades after Harry's book was published, newly discovered documents revealed that Yale All-American, William "Pudge" Heffelfinger, had been paid to play football by the Pittsburgh Athletic Club three years prior to Brallier.ⁱⁱⁱ Heffelfinger was a legend in college football, as he played and coached into his sixties. He wrote many articles and books on the topic, including his own memoirs. None of his writings include an admission that he was paid to play. Thus, when Harry wrote that Brallier was the "first *confessed* pro," he was carefully choosing his words. If Harry knew, or even suspected, the famous and respected Heffelfinger had received money for play before Brallier, he was keeping that a secret.



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A first history on any topic is a beginning point, not a conclusive study. It is a foundation upon which others will build. Harry recognized that in the closing pages of his book when he wrote:

"... In later years, may keener minds, younger hands, and better and more observing eyes go over what is here written, to clarify, amend, and add to it, that the next history may be more searching, more accurate, and more entertaining!"^{liii}

Harry left the NFL a year after his book was published. He then pursued a plan he had mentioned in his book the year before: creating a second pro football league.

Harry witnessed the value of rivalries in pro football particularly in his Canton days. At a time when teams would play in front of only one or two thousand fans, the Canton-Massillon games drew five, six, seven thousand or more. Major league baseball had two leagues which led to a World Series. Harry's goal in creating a second league was to start a rivalry which would produce more fan interest and lead to a World Series of football.

Harry's new league was the American Professional Football League, which he called, "The Americans," as he had with his first musical theater troupe three decades earlier. Harry declared The Americans would not be an "outlaw league."^{liv} Just as he and Tim Mara fought for the NFL to promise not to recruit college men before their graduation, Harry promised his new league would not recruit players under contract with other pro teams. Though he was president of the league, Harry was not able to enforce that policy and he left The Americans. The league lasted less than two full seasons. One gets the impression Harry just got tired of all the work.

In 1939, Harry produced a second edition of *Pro Football Its Ups and Downs*, as promised in his first edition. The second edition provided updated team records and stories. Harry shared more personal observations about people he had come to know through pro football. Key among them is his eulogy of Joe Carr, who had died less than a year earlier. In that heart-felt page, Harry wrote: "Professional football has suffered an irreparable loss," and referred to Carr as, "my close friend for over thirty years." Sensing his own time was short, Harry closed with, "Goodbye, Joe, for a little time."

Doctor Harry A. March led a full and varied life, from the Gilded Age through the Great Depression to the doorstep of a second world war. He was active, always engaged with society and American culture. In Tim Mara, as he had with his theatrical stars and football players, he found the right person at the right time. Together they built one of the most successful sports franchises in the world. In his memoirs, Steve Owen, said of Harry, "Great in all ways was his contribution to the success of professional football in New York City during those early days."^{lv}



In December 1925, the *New York World* ran a lengthy article detailing the team's genesis. It told how Harry was inspired by a mailman's lament that he could not get tickets to college games and how Harry sought a financial angel to support a team in New York City. The article included a head-and-shoulders photograph of Harry with his fedora jauntily cocked back on his head. Above that photo is the headline, "Father of Pro Football In This City."^{lvi}

Other sportswriters applied that title to Harry in a broader sense, probably with Harry's encouragement. In 1934, *New York Herald-Tribune's* sports columnist George Daley reviewed Harry's book saying, "Dr March is 'known as the 'Father of Professional Football,' a well-deserved title for which he credits me." Daley praised Harry's work in building the game's popularity and ethical operations, which should make Harry "prouder of the title."^{lvii}

An editorial in the Camden *New Jersey Morning Post* appearing a few weeks after Dr. March's death asserts that, "No sports authority would deny him the title of 'father', of the game as we know it today." The editorial suggested how fans could honor Dr. March's contributions to the game: "It would be a pleasant gesture if fans throughout the country requested the placing of a small memorial plaque in parks and stadia where their pet pro teams play."^{lviii}

Harry's work in making the New York Football Giants a success directly supported the National Football League's nationwide ambitions; the success of the Giants helped make the league a success (cue Frank Sinatra: "*If I can make it there, I can make it anywhere...*"). His ethical stands on the League's Executive Committee fostered integrity and public trust. In his day, Harry was known as the father of the sport he loved. Yet he is largely forgotten today, overshadowed by those who lived longer and amassed wealth in the game he helped build.

Dr. March's calling card reflects a bit of his character. In the upper left corner of the card is the pharmacist's "Rx" symbol for a prescription. The card is titled, "Contentment Brew - 100% ". The free verse reads:

Happiness is the Half-way stop between too-
much and too-little.
Linger long!
Laughter Snatches crumbs from poor Doctor's
lips, but he doesn't object and is glad.
Learn to Laugh and Do Not Worry.^{lix}



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Harry A. March was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was enlightened and educated, energetic and entertaining. His impact on professional football cannot be overlooked.

Dr. Harry A. March never accumulated wealth, but was content. His philosophy of life appears not only on his calling card, but it also appears on his headstone in Canton's Westlawn Cemetery. Doctor Harry Addison March died June 10, 1940.



End Notes:

- ⁱ Dr March, Noted in Football; New York Times, 6/11/1940. p. 25
- ⁱⁱ Hart, Weldon; Sports Situation; Austin Statesman, 6/12/1940. p. 11
- ⁱⁱⁱ A Borrowed Lie; Canton Repository and Republican, 9/18/1873.
- ^{iv} Radical Papers on the Election; Stark County Democrat, 11/13/1873. p. 2
- ^v McKinley, Jr, William; handwritten note to US Secretary of Treasury John Sherman, 12/8/1877. Subsequent letter from McKinley to Sherman, 12/29/1877. National Archives and Records Administration.
- ^{vi} *The Plattsburgh (New York) Sentinel*. November 20, 1914, p. 6.
- ^{vii} Osborne, Newell Yost; A Select School - The History of Mount Union College and An Account of A Unique Educational Experiment, Scio School; Mount Union College; 1966
- ^{viii} March, Harry A., editor. *The Unionian*. (Alliance, OH. Mount Union College, 1895).
- ^{ix} *The M'Kinley Train*; Louisville Courier-Journal, 3/2/1897, p. 1-4
- ^x *Evening Repository*, Canton, Ohio; 8/21/1898 to 9/7/1898 p. 1 and other pages
- ^{xi} Sport, Football, Professionals; TIME Magazine; 10/12/1936. p. 47
- ^{xii} Pollock, Channing; *Harvest of My Years*; Indianapolis-New York; Bobbs-Merrill; 1943
- ^{xiii} *The Elms*, yearbook of Canton High School, 1904
- ^{xiv} *Dr March Is It*; Canton Morning News, 5/16/1905
- ^{xv} *The Shelby Team Cried Out 'Nuff'*; Canton Morning News; 10/30/1905. p. 6
- ^{xvi} *Here is Bulldog Squad That Started Canton-Massillon Feud in Early Days of Pro Football*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, 11/16/1940, p. 15
- ^{xvii} *The Americans*; Stark County Democrat, 8/17/1906, p. 3
- ^{xviii} *Dr Marsh [sic] In New York*; The New York Clipper, p. 3; 1/17/1914
- ^{xix} *Harry March New Chairman of Committee*; Canton News-Democrat; 6/1/1912. p. 1



^{xx} *Progressives to Name Candidate to Replace March*; Canton Daily News; 8/4/1913

^{xxi} *Wanted-Useful People in All Lines*; New York Clipper; 7/17/1918

^{xxii} *In the Spotlight*; Washington Sunday Star; Aug 11, 1918, p. 4

^{xxiii} Abstract of Service in US Army and New York National Guard; Harry A March; 4/29/1929

^{xxiv} *Kenneth March Named as Cadet*; Canton Daily News, page 1; 2/27/1922

^{xxv} *Mail Carrier Delivers Professional Football to New York City*; New York World; 12/20/1925

^{xxvi} *Baseball Scribes Hold First Dinner*; Brooklyn Daily Times; 1/28/1924

^{xxvii} March, Dr. Harry A. *Pro Football-Its Ups and Downs*. (Albany, NY: J. B. Lyons Company, 1st Ed. 1934), p 31

^{xxviii} Willis, Chris; *Joe F Carr, the Man Who Built the National Football League*; 2010, pp. 182-184

^{xxix} *Ibid*, pp. 185-186. NOTE: While the many tellings of how Mara paid for the franchise are essentially the same, the one difference is the amount Mara paid on that day in May 1925. The amount varies from \$500 to \$2,500. The NFL's meeting minutes of 9/17/1920 set the franchise fee at \$100. Page 150 of *Pro Football Its Ups and Downs* reports the fee was \$50 in 1922 and was "advanced" to \$500" before Giants entered the league. The minutes of 9/12/1928 reported each team had to pay \$2,500 into a guarantee fund. What is clear is that Mara paid thousands in that first year to keep his team afloat

^{xxx} March, Dr. Harry A. *Pro Football-Its Ups and Downs*. (Albany, NY: J. B. Lyons Company, 1st Ed. 1934), p 31

^{xxxi} NFL Meeting Minutes; Hotel Sherman, Chicago; 8/1-2/1925

^{xxxii} *Pro Officials See Big Football Year*; New York Times; 9/10/1925, p. 20

^{xxxiii} *70,000 See Grange in Pro Debut Here*; New York Times; 12/7/1925. p. 26

^{xxxiv} *Condition Critical*; Zanesville Times Recorder, 11/25/1925, p 16



- ^{xxxv} 70,000 See Grange in Pro Debut Here; New York Times; 12/7/1925. p. 26
- ^{xxxvi} NFL Meeting Minutes, Hotel Statler, Detroit; 2/6/1926
- ^{xxxvii} Colleges to Hear Pro Football Aims; New York Times; 7/13/1926, p. 17
- ^{xxxviii} Owen, Steve; *My Kind of Football*; David McKay Company, Inc.; New York; 1952
p. 74
- ^{xxxix} Ibid
- ^{xl} *Pro Football Gets Birth Certificate*; Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph; 9/6/1952, p. 5
- ^{xli} Jack Mara Succeeds Dr March as Head of Pro Football Giants; New York Herald-Tribune; 2/16/1932. p. 23
- ^{xlii} *Football Giants Get Danowski, Ending Dispute*; New York Herald-Tribune; 7/2/1934
- ^{xliii} NFL Meeting Minutes; Victoria Hotel, New York, 7/1/1934
- ^{xliv} *Increasing Popularity of Professional Football*; Literary Digest; 12/9/1933. p. 24
- ^{xlv} Personal letter from Dr. March to Lud Wray; 1/13/1934; from collection of Michael Moran
- ^{xlvi} March, Dr. Harry A. *Pro Football-Its Ups and Downs*. (Albany, NY: J. B. Lyons Company, 1st Ed. 1934). p. 114
- ^{xlvii} Ibid; p. iii
- ^{xlviii} NFL Meeting Minutes; Commodore Hotel, New York; 6/30/1934
- ^{xlix} *Blondy Wallace and the Biggest Football Scandal Ever: 1906; PFRA Research; A is For Amateur, the Amateur Condition of Football in the US: 1890; PFRA Research;*
- ^l Cusack, Jack; *Pioneer in Pro Football*; 1963
- ^{li} March, Dr. Harry A; *Pro Football Its Ups and Downs*; JB Lyons; Albany, New York; 1934. p. 7



- ^{lii} Riffenbaugh, Beau and Bob Carroll; *The Birth of Pro Football*; PFRA Annual; Professional Football Researchers Association; 1989
- ^{liii} Ibid. p. 159
- ^{liv} March, Dr. Harry A.; Announcing the American Professional Football League; New York City; 1935
- ^{lv} Owen, Steve. *My Kind of Football*. p 74
- ^{lvi} *Mail Carrier Delivers Professional Football to New York City*; New York World; 12/20/1925
- ^{lvii} Daley, George; Sport Talk; New York Herald Tribune; 9/9/1934/ p. B5
- ^{lviii} *Socialized Football*; Morning Post; Camden, New Jersey; 7/3/1940. p. 10
- ^{lix} Copy of card in author's collection