

## No.11 Thomas Picken

Tom was another of those old characters who played only a few games in the Football League but got through a whole lot of clubs.

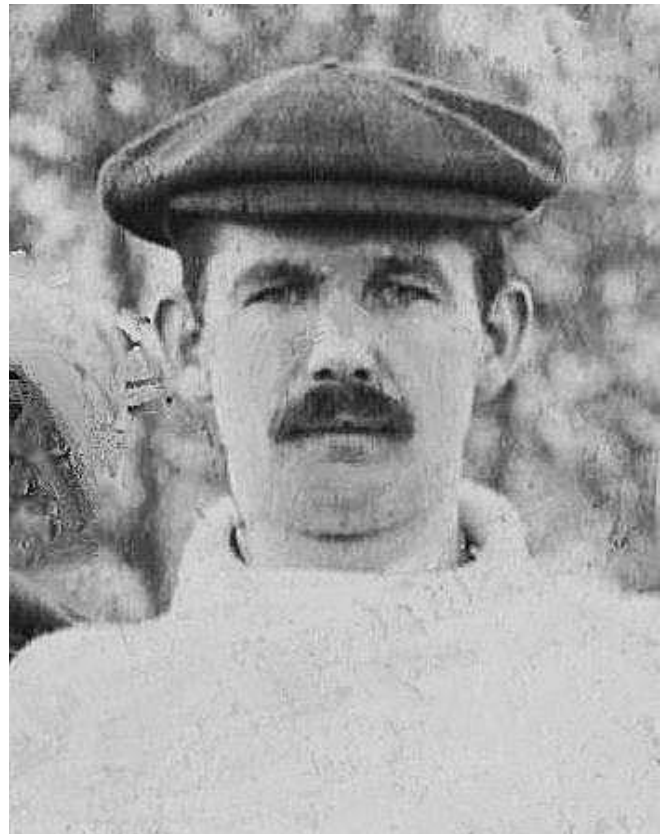
Born in Hednesford, 30 May 1883, he joined his first senior club, Hednesford Town, as a 15 year old goalkeeper.

In those days life was hard and men who had before the game done a hard day's work at the coal face could, it appeared, be excused displays of bad temper as on one occasion when Tom was kicked in a goalmouth scramble. He chased the opponent up field and retaliated, but was allowed to stay on the field.

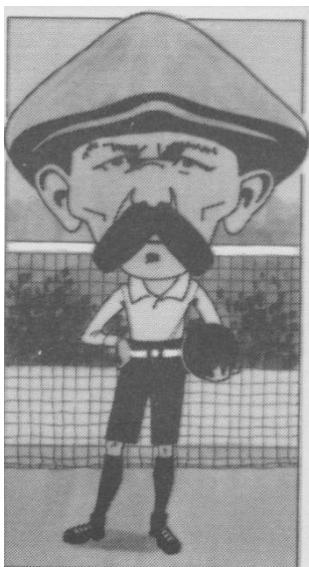
Tom signed for the Albion in May 1905 and gained a junior international cap almost immediately - reward for his sound technique and safe pair of hands. He played only two senior games for them, making his debut against Chesterfield Town in Division two in April 1906. He also played more than 60 second-team matches.

At the 'Baggies' for five years, Tom returned to Hednesford in 1909, just in time to help us win the Birmingham Combination Championship at the end of that season. He then had spells with Rood End, Oldbury United and Dudley Phoenix, retiring in 1916 to work in the steel industry before helping his wife open a clothes shop in West Bromwich.

Also a good cricketer, Tom played mainly for Hednesford CC. He died in Dudley in August 1960.



Hednesford Town: 1909-1910 Birmingham Combination League Champions.



From a set of 24 by Dave Shaw