

World Championship in Memphis?

Yes . . . it happened. In 1907 the Memphis Chess Club hosted three WC games between then World Champion Emanuel Lasker and Challenger Frank Marshall.

Marshall, the American Champion, lost decisively to Lasker. Here are the three games that were played in Memphis:

Lasker, Em - Marshall, F (12)

[C11] Memphis-Wch, 1907

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bd3 c5 5.Nf3 dxe4 6.Nxe4 cxd4 7.Nxf6+ gxf6
8.Nxd4 Bd7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.Be4 Qa5+ 11.c3 Rc8 12.0-0 Rg8 13.Re1 Ne5 14.Bxh7
Rh8 15.Be4 Qc7 16.Bf4 Bd6 17.Bg3 Nc4 18.Qf3 Bxg3 19.fxg3 Ne5 20.Qxf6 Rxh2
21.Bf5 Rh5 22.Rxe5 Qd8 23.Qxd8+ Kxd8 24.g4 Rg5 25.Nf3 Rg7 26.Bd3Rxc4
27.Kf2 Ke7 28.Rae1 Rcg8 29.Bf1 Bc6 30.b3 Rh8 31.R5e3 Rhg8 32.a4 a5 33.Ne5
Rf4+ 34.Kg1 Be8 35.Nc4 b5 36.axb5 Bxb5 37.Nxa5 Bd7 38.b4 f5 39.Nb3 Rfg4
40.Nd4 f4 41.Re4 R8g6 42.c4 Kd6 43.c5+ Kd5 44.Nf3 Rf6 45.Rd4+ Kc6
46.Ne5+ 1-0

Marshall, F - Lasker, Em (13)

[D07] Memphis-Wch, 1907

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6 3.cxd5 Qxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 Qa5 6.e8 e5 7.dxe5 Nxe5
8.Bb5+ Ned7 9.Qb3 Bb4 10.Bd2 0-0 11.Bxd7 Bxd7 12.0-0 Be6 13.Qc2 Qh5
14.Ne4 Be7 15.Ng3 Qc5 16.Bc3 Rfe8 17.Rfc1 Bd5 18.Ng5 Bc6 19.Nf5 Bf8 20.b4
Qd5 21.f3 Bd7 22.e4 Bxf5 23.exf5 h6 24.Bxf6 hxg5 25.Rd1 Qb5 26.Bxg5 Bxb4
27.Qxc7 Qxf5 28.Bh4 b6 29.Bf2 Re2 30.Rd8+ Rxd8 31.Qxd8+ Bf8 32.Qd1 Qe5
33.Bd4 Bc5 34.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 35.Kh1 Qf2 36.Qg1 Rxa2 37.Rxa2 Qxa2 38.Qd1
Qc4 39.Qd8+ Kh7 40.h4 b5 41.Qg5 b4 42.h5 b3 43.h6 gxh6 44.Qf5+ Kg8
45.Qe5 a5 46.f4 a4 47.f5 Kh7 48.f6 Kg6 49.Kh2 Qh4+ 50.Kg1 Qxf6 51.Qe4+
Qf5 52.Qb4 Kh7 53.Qb7 Qc5+ 54.Kh2 Qc4 55.Qd7 b2 56.Qf5+ Kg8 57.g4 a3
58.g5 Qh4+ 0-1

Lasker, Em - Marshall, F (14)

[C11] Memphis-Wch, 1907

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bd3 c5 5.Nf3 c4 6.Be2 dxe4 7.Ne5 Bd6 8.0-0 a6
9.Nxc4 h6 10.f3 exf3 11.Bxf3 Bxh2+ 12.Kxh2 h5 13.Bf4 Ng4+ 14.Kg1 g5 15.Be5
Rg8 16.Bxg4 hxg4 17.Ne4 Nd7 18.Qxg4 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Kf8 20.Rad1 Qc7 21.Nf6
1-0