



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
January/February 2001

William Swarback Found

Our *Find of the Month* goes to Richard Malatzky for tracking down the man we had listed as William Swabach, pitcher for the 1887 New York Giants. Richard tracked several papers and found his last name listed as Sworbach, Sworback, Swarback, Swabach, and Sworbacker with notes that he was from New York City. Richard found an 1891 listing in the Stamford, Connecticut city directory for William Swarback - ballplayer. Swarback is shown at that address through 1899 when his name changes to Schwappach. It is shown as Schwappach up until his death in 1949. I decided to list his playing name as Swarback since that matched the directory listing at the time and his real name as Schwappach. Great work!

George McMillan

Richard Malatzky also managed to find George McMillan, outfielder for the 1890 New York Giants. Richard was able to find McMillan in the 1900 and 1920 Ohio census and locate his death date in Cleveland. He was able to link this man with what we know about the ballplayer to establish that this was indeed our missing player.

Joe Zapustas

Joe Zapustas, who died this past month, had an interesting career. He graduated from Fordham in 1932, having played football for Frank Cavanaugh, the "Iron Major". Cavanaugh is in the College Football Hall of Fame. After graduating from college, he played in the major leagues for the 1933 Philadelphia Athletics,

managed by Connie Mack, a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame. That fall he played in the National Football League for the New York Giants, managed by Steve Owen, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. So in the span of two years, he played for members of three different Halls of Fame. He later became a boxing referee, refereeing several title fights. And the city of Randolph, Massachusetts recently named their ice skating rink after him. That's quite a career.

Great Month

We have a lot of information this month. In fact, this is the first time I have ever gone to 3 pages worth of data. I already know of two major finds that will be probably be in next month's newsletter provided we tie up some loose ends. Keep up the good work and stay tuned.

Beware

Rootsweb has the Social Security death index updated through December. However, it seems that almost everyone who died in December 2000 is listed as dying on December 1. Make sure you double check any death dates from that month.

New Web Site

Richard Malatzky has created a web site devoted to our missing ballplayers. He is trying to put together data on all our missing boys and have them on his site. If you'd like to check it out, the URL is:

hoxley.tripod.com/FirstPage.index.html.

The Baseball Digest List

Continuing with our list of the 100 missing players published by Baseball Digest, here are the 10 from December of 1963:

Fletcher Franks - Actually Oliver Frank Fletcher, he was alive in 1963 and died 10/07/1974 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

William Clowers - Alive in 1963. Died 01/13/1978 in Sweeney, Texas. (No relation to Clifton Clowers on Wolverton Mountain)

William Anderson - Alive in 1963. Died 03/13/1983 in Medford, Massachusetts.

Thomas Dennehey - Alive in 1963. Died 08/08/1977 in Philadelphia.

Walter Walsh - Alive in 1963. Died 01/15/1966 in Avon-by-the-Sea, New Jersey. (At least it isn't named Avon-by-the-Toxic-Waste-Dump)

W. W. Shanner - Wilfred William Shanner was alive in 1963 and died 12/18/1986 in Evansville, Indiana.

Earl Pruess - Alive in 1963. Died 08/28/1979 in Branson, Missouri.

George Ellison - Alive in 1963. He died 01/20/1978 in San Francisco. We still need his birthplace.

Herbert Hall - Died 07/18/1948 in Seattle, Washington.

Karl Adams - Alive in 1963. Died 09/17/1967 in Everett, Washington.

Birthday List

Here is the list of nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in March and April. Make sure you send a card.

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|----|
| March 11 | James Bucher | 90 |
| March 16 | John Poser | 91 |
| March 29 | William Strickland | 93 |
| April 9 | Howard Groskloss | 95 |
| | Claude Passeur | 92 |
| April 15 | Eddie Mayo | 91 |
| April 17 | Bob Stevens | 94 |
| April 24 | Sam Harshaney | 91 |
| April 27 | Bernard Uhalt | 91 |

A Bad Vade?

We list Eugene Vadeboncoeur, catcher for Philadelphia in 1884, as dying in Haverhill, Massachusetts on October 16, 1935. Richard

Malatzky and Peter Morris are convinced that the Haverhill guy is not the ballplayer. Here is why.

An 1890 note from the Sporting News mentions that "Eugene Vadeboncoeur, a Syracuse boy who has been playing in New England for a number of seasons, visited his parents last month. He is now in Denver." The 1870 Syracuse census shows the family: Onesime (44) and Angela (40), both born in Canada, with children Danna (16), Ferdinand (14), Eugene (10), Edward (8), Philip (3), and Delia (1). All the children were born in Canada except Delia, who was born in New York. So it would appear that the family moved to Syracuse between 1867 and 1869. Eugene was listed with the family in the Syracuse directories through 1879.

The Eugene in Haverhill was listed in the 1900 Massachusetts as being married in 1882 in Canada, 2 daughters born in 1882 and 1884 in Canada, and a son born in 1892 in Massachusetts. He immigrated to the United States in 1887. He had a brother born in 1871 in Canada who came to the States in 1885. His parents were named Joseph and Marte rather than Onesime and Angela.

Of course, it's possible that the 1900 census is wrong. We have seen that before. It's also possible Onesime's name was really Joseph Onesime, Angela died, and he remarried. (Who wants to be called Onesime anyway?) But there is enough confusion here to make this our *Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

| | IN | OUT | PCT |
|-----------------------|-------|------|---------|
| Total Complete Names | 15464 | 60 | 99.614 |
| Total Complete Births | 14797 | 727 | 95.317 |
| Total Complete Deaths | 7682 | 420 | 49.485 |
| Total Assumed Alive | 7422 | | 47.810 |
| Total Bats | 14189 | 1227 | 92.041 |
| Total Throws | 14435 | 981 | 93.637 |
| Total Heights | 14453 | 963 | 93.753 |
| Total Weights | 14394 | 1022 | 93.371 |
| Total Debut Dates | 15524 | 0 | 100.000 |
| Total Questionnaires | 9983 | 5541 | 64.307 |
| Total Completion | | | 92.1448 |

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------|
| 1995 Acevedo, Juan Carlos | Name: Juan Carlos Acevedo (<u>Lara</u>) | (C1) |
| 1914 Adams, Daniel Leslie | B: Jun 19 1887 | (M4) |
| 1962 Agee, Tommie Lee | D: Jan 22 2001 | (C1) |
| | <u>New York, New York</u> | |
| 1943 Alderson, Dale Leonard | B: Mar 9 1918 | (M4) |
| 1934 Babich, John Charles | D: Jan 19 2001 | (C1) |
| | <u>Richmond, California</u> | |
| 1906 Bates, John William | TR | (R1) |
| 1965 Blefary, Curtis Leroy | D: Jan 28 2001 | (C1) |
| | <u>Pompano Beach, Florida</u> | |
| 1883 Blogg, Wesley Collins | Height: <u>5-08</u> Weight: <u>155</u> | (R1) |
| 1913 Boardman, Charles Louis | B: Mar 27 1893 | (M4) |
| 1913 Bohen, Leo Ignatius | B: Sep 30 1890 | (M4) |
| 1907 Boultes, Jacob John | BR | (R1) |
| 1956 Bradford, William D | D: Aug 22 2000 | (S3) |
| | <u>Fairfield Bay, Arkansas</u> | |
| 1953 Buhl, Robert Ray | D: Feb 16 2001 | (C1) |
| | <u>Titusville, Florida</u> | |
| 1904 Cassady, Harry Delbert | D: Apr 19 1969 | (M4) |
| 1947 Combs, Merrill Russell | D: Jul 7 1981 | (M4) |
| 1919 Courtney, Henry Seymour | D: Lyme, <u>Connecticut</u> | (M4) |
| 1925 Cox, Elmer Joseph | B: Sep 30 1895 | (M4) |
| 1942 Culp, Benjamin Baldy | D: Oct 23 2000 | (C1) |
| | <u>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania</u> | |
| 1936 Dean, Alfred Lovell | B: Aug 24 1915 | (M4) |
| | D: <u>Riverside, New Jersey</u> | |
| 1922 Doran, William James | B: Jun 14 1898 | (M4) |
| 1928 Dorman, Charles Dwight | D: Dec 7 1974 | (M4) |
| 1901 Dupee, Frank Oliver | TR | (C1) |
| 1906 Essick, William Earl | B: Dec 18 1880 | (M4) |
| 1903 Falkenberg, Frederick Peter | B: Dec 17 1879 | (M4) |
| | D: Apr 15 1961 | |
| 1942 Felderman, Marvin Wilfred | D: Aug 6 2000 | (C1) |
| | <u>Riverside, California</u> | |
| 1885 Foley, John J. | B: 1858 | (M4) |
| | <u>Guilford, Vermont</u> | |
| 1932 Freitas, Antonio | D: Mar 14 1994 | (M4) |
| 1903 Gessler, Harry Homer | D: Dec 24 1924 | (B3) |
| | <u>Greensburg, Pennsylvania</u> | |
| 1940 Gillenwater, Carden Edison | B: May 13 1917 | (S3) |
| | D: May 10 2000 | |
| | <u>Largo, Florida</u> | |
| 1909 Gilligan, John Patrick | B: Mar 18 1884 | (M4) |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------|
| 1906 Glaze, Daniel Ralph | B: Mar 13 1881 | (M4) |
| 1906 Good, Eugene J. | TR | (R1) |
| 1909 Gray, William Denton | D: Apr 3 1956 | (M4) |
| 1928 Jacobs, Raymond Frederick | D: Apr 5 1952 | (M4) |
| 1941 Jones, James Murrell | D: Dec 13 2000 | (C1) |
| | <u>Delhi, Louisiana</u> | |
| 1940 Judnich, Walter Franklin | B: Jan 24 1916 | (M4) |
| | D: Jul 10 1971 | |
| 1907 Keefe, Robert Francis | D: Dec 6 1964 | (M4) |
| 1964 Kelley, Richard Anthony | D: Dec 11 1991 | (M4) |
| 1888 Knell, Philip H. | Name: Philip Louis Knell | (M4) |
| | B: Mar 12 1865 | |
| 1907 Knotts, Joseph Steven | Height: 5-09 Weight: 170 | (R1) |
| 1935 Kress, Ralph | B: Jan 2 1905 | (M4) |
| 1884 Lauer, John Charles | B: Apr 5 1865 | (Q1) |
| 1907 Leary, Francis Patrick | Height: 5-10 Weight: 190 | (R1) |
| 1899 Leith, William | TR | (R1) |
| 1956 LiPetri, Michael Angelo | B: Jul 6 1929 | (C1) |
| 1941 Marshall, Charles Anthony | Real Name: Charles Anthony Marchlewicz | (M4) |
| 1952 Mathews, Edwin Lee | D: Feb 18 2001 | (C1) |
| | <u>La Jolla, California</u> | |
| 1898 McKenna, James William | Height: 5-09 Weight: 180 | (R1) |
| 1907 McLane, Edward Cameron | TR | (R1) |
| 1890 McMillan, George A. | B: Sep 1864 | (M3) |
| | <u>Canada</u> | |
| | D: Apr 18 1920 | |
| | <u>Cleveland, Ohio</u> | |
| 1934 McQuaig, Gerald Joseph | D: Feb 5 2001 | (H4) |
| | <u>Buford, Georgia</u> | |
| 1894 Mohler, Ernest Follette | B: Dec 13 1870 | (M4) |
| 1906 Morgan, James Edward | BR | (R1) |
| 1904 Murch, Simeon Augustus | Height: 6-02 | (R1) |
| 1945 Nelson, Tom Cousineau | Name: Thomas Cousineau Nelson | (M4) |
| 1933 Nonnenkamp, Leo William | D: Dec 3 2000 | (C1) |
| | <u>Little Rock, Arkansas</u> | |
| 1871 Norton, Peter J. | Name: Frank Prescott Norton | (M3) |
| | Delete birth and death information | |
| 1943 Partee, Roy Robert | D: Dec 26 2000 | (F2) |
| | <u>Eureka, California</u> | |
| 1898 Pickett, David T. | TR | (R1) |
| 1950 Poholsky, Thomas George | D: Jan 6 2001 | (S3) |
| | <u>Kirkwood, Missouri</u> | |
| 1934 Pool, Harlin Welty | B: Mar 13 1908 | (M4) |
| 1938 Pressnell, Forest Charles | D: Jan 6 2001 | (H3) |
| | <u>Findlay, Ohio</u> | |
| 1921 Rapp, Joseph Aloysius | B: Feb 6 1894 | (M4) |
| 1946 Rigney, William Joseph | D: Feb 20 2001 | (C1) |
| | <u>Walnut Creek, California</u> | |
| 1936 Sabo, Alexander | D: Jan 3 2001 | (C1) |
| | <u>Tuckerton, New Jersey</u> | |
| 1935 Scarsella, Leslie George | D: Dec 16 1958 | (M4) |
| 1982 Senteney, Stephen Leonard | D: Jun 18 1989 | (M4) |
| 1905 Sharpe, Bayard Heston | BR Height: 6-01 Weight: 170 | (R1) |
| 1910 Slagle, Walter Jennings | D: Jun 14 1974 | (M4) |
| 1925 Smith, Marvin Harold | B: Jul 17 1899 | (M4) |
| 1915 Smyth, James Daniel | B: Jan 30 1891 | (M4) |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------|
| 1887 Swabach, William | Name: William <u>Swarback</u> Real Name: <u>William Schwappach</u> B: <u>Oct 1867</u> <u>New York, New York</u> D: <u>May 17 1949</u> <u>Stamford, Connecticut</u> | (M3) |
| 1939 Thuman, Louis Charles Frank | D: <u>Dec 19 2000</u> <u>Baltimore, Maryland</u> | (B6) |
| 1942 Tost, Louis Eugene | D: Feb 21 1967 | (M4) |
| 1934 Tremark, Nicholas Joseph | D: <u>Sep 7 2000</u> <u>Tomball, Texas</u> | (C1) |
| 1925 Vache, Ernest Lewis | B: Nov 17 1889 | (M4) |
| 1948 Vico, George Steve | D: Jan 14 1994 | (M4) |
| 1902 Vorhees, Henry Bert | TR | (R1) |
| 1913 Watson, Charles John | B: Jan 30 1885 | (M4) |
| 1905 West, James Hiram | D: May 24 1963 | (M4) |
| 1896 Wheeler, George L. | Name: George <u>Louis</u> Wheeler Real Name: George <u>Louis</u> Heroux B: <u>Jul 30 1869</u> D: Mar 21 1946 | (M4) |
| 1907 Wolter, Harry Meigs | D: Jul 6 1970 | (M4) |
| 1943 Woods, George Rowland | D: Oct 29 1982 | (M4) |
| 1927 Wright, James | D: Apr 11 1963 | (M4) |
| 1905 Yale, William M. | BR | (R1) |
| 1933 Zapustas, Joseph John | D: <u>Jan 14 2001</u> <u>Randolph, Massachusetts</u> | (T3) |