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George Bristow Found

George Bristow, who played three games for the infamous 1899 Cleveland Spiders, has been found. He is clearly identified in the 1900 census and definitely from Paw Paw, Illinois, but we have never been able to find him in any census either before or after 1900. There is a very good reason why and I am printing Peter Morris's e-mail in its entirety that explains how he was found. This is a truly amazing find and is our *Find of the Month*.

Notes about the missing member of the 1899 Spiders:

Sporting Life of April 27, 1895 profile: born in Paw Paw, Illinois around 1870. We think his record looks like this: he started as a pitcher for the Chicago City league in 1889; 1890 Aurora (Illinois-Iowa League); 1891 Rockford (II); 1892-3 Fort Scott; 1894 Des Moines and St. Joseph (Western); 1895 Galveston (Texas); 1896 Paterson-Newark (Atlantic); 1897 Denison (Texas). He was still pitching in 1897. His 1898 whereabouts are unknown, but in 1899 he starts the year with Cleveland before being released to minor-league Kansas City (Western) in May 1899. He does not appear in the stats for Kansas City, so must have played ten games or fewer. In 1900 he spends the whole year playing second base for St. Joseph (Western). SN 1/20/1894 had an ad for George "Briston" of Fort Scott, Kansas, a pitcher and outfielder with Fort Scott in 1894. SN 7/21/94 pitcher "Briston" with St. Joseph. SN 7/28/94 former Des Moines pitcher George Bristow is with St. Joseph. There's an ad in SN on 3/23/95 for the services of pitcher George Bristow of Hebron, Nebraska, who was with St. Joseph last season. The next week he signed with Galveston. SN 5/11/95 there's a "Briston" catching for the amateur DeKalb bbc – perhaps a brother? SN 12/14/95 George Briston is with Galveston. SN 1/11/96 George Bristow with Syracuse. SN 8/7/97 Bristow joined Hot Springs.

Also:

Galveston Daily News 4/7/1895: George Bristow, right hand pitcher, born at Paw Paw, Ill., 24 yo, 5 10, 170, Whitings Chicago City League 1889, in Aurora Ill 1890, Rockport Ill 1891, Fort Scott Kan 1892-93, Des Moines and St Joseph 1894.

I still think part of the playing record listed for Bristow in SN is wrong and that the man who played at 1890 Joliet and 1891 Rockford was William L. Bristow from DeKalb IL.

There was a note on or around April 11, 1895, that his sister had died.

1900 St Joseph, Missouri
George Bristow, ballplayer, born May 1870 in Illinois, parents born New York.

Galveston Daily News, June 29, 1895; pg. 8, Pitcher George Bristow of Galveston was married in secret on June 20 to Emma Gates, sister of his teammate George Gates. He married Emma Gates in Galveston 1895. We should try to get his marriage record.

Galveston Daily News, January 26, 1896, When Bristow leaves for Syracuse to play he will take his wife and stop by Chicago so she can meet his parents.

Emma Bristow (indexed as Briston), Jan 1873 Lax3 is living in Galveston with her widowed mother, Mary, and four siblings.

That was basically where the search stalled.

Then Richard found the note in the Cleveland Plain Dealer at the start of the 1899 season stating that Bristow had enlisted in the 1st Arkansas Infantry at the outset of the Spanish-American War. There's a record for George G. Howlett/ alias George G. Bristow who enlisted in the 1st Arkansas on May 4, 1898 and was discharged on May 20, 1898. He filed for a disability pension in 1926 but no death pension.

That points to this man:

1870 census, Wyoming Township, Lee County (PO: Paw Paw)
taken June 8,1870
James Howlett 32 NY
Sarah 24 NY
Mary 2 Ill.
Grant 1 month Ill., "born May"
Horatio (father of James)

It definitely says Grant, but on all subsequent censuses he is George:

1880 census, Willow Creek, Lee County, Ill.
James Howlett 42 NYx3 farmer
Sarah J. 36 NY Canada Canada
Mary A. 12 Ill
George G. 10 Ill
Mandy B. 7 Ill
Wilbur G. 3 Ill
Horatio 71 NY (father of James)

George Howlett nowhere to be found on 1900 census when George Bristow the ballplayer is listed. Sarah and James are in Willow Creek with their son Wilbur and a nineteen-year-old daughter named Florence. Sarah's listing says four of her five children are still alive.

James Howlett, who was a Civil War veteran, died in 1904.

1910 census, Willow Creek, Ill.
Sarah Howlett NY widow, 5 kids, 4 living
Marie Howlett 42 Ill
George Howlett 40 Ill
his wife Nellie J. 33 Oh, m. 9 years (met while playing with the Spiders?)
his daughter Dorothy, 7 mos., b. Wash

Washington births, King County:
13 Jan 1905 daughter to George G. Howlett, real estate, and Nellie (Boninger), 7613 Crescent Pl., Seattle

1920 census, Seattle
George Howlett 48 Ill surveyor
Nellie 42 Oh
Dorothy 10 Wash.

1930 census, Seattle
George Howlet 59 Ill inspector, general construction

with a (new?) wife named Elizabeth 54 NY Scot Can.

Washington Deaths
George G. Howlett 69, wife Ada, d. October 17, 1939, Bellingham, Wash.

This all fits perfectly, but is it the ballplayer? Yes:

Historical County of Illinois and History of Lee County (1904), on ancestry.com:

long profile of James C. Howlett, his clothes were struck with bullets during the war on several occasions but none of them struck him, married Sarah Jane Fowler on April 4, 1867, father of five children, four of them living, including "George G., a professional base-ball player."

That pretty much clinches it, but it gets better.

There's a detailed family tree on ancestry.com for this man:

George Gates Howlett
Birth: 13 May 1870 – Allen's Grove, Lee County, Illinois
Death: 17 Oct 1939 - Bellingham, Washington
Spouse: Nellie Bramminger

Further proof that he is the ballplayer, here is the death information for his sister:

Amanda Belle Howlett
Born: 22 APR 1873 in Allen's Grove, Lee County, Illinois
Died: 28 MAR 1895 in Paw Paw, Illinois

Then it gets still better. Check out this record:

http://www.baseball-reference.com/minors/player.cgi?id=howlet001geo

Even the birth date matches, though the place of birth is wrong.

A search of SL produces several hits that confirm:

SL 10/25/02 Iowa-South Dakota league reserves: Lemars – George Howlett

SL 5/27/05 "George Howlett, who did such splendid work for Spokane last year, has charge of the Victoria team. …"

And Genealogybank.com has a lot of issues from Bellingham and Seattle that mention him, including:

Seattle Daily Times 9/27/26: George Howlett in old-timers' game

Seattle Daily Times 7/4/32 and 7/7/32: George Howlett in old-timers' game with Amos Rusie, Fielder Jones, etc.

I have my doubts that Gates was really his middle name – what a weird coincidence if his given names were indeed George Gates and he married the sister of his teammate George Gates. Since he was listed as Grant on the 1870 census, maybe it is George Grant Howlett or Grant George Howlett.

Though the members of the 1899 Spiders tried very hard to conceal their identities, they can't hide from us!

Jacob Drauby

Jacob Drauby played ten games for Washington in 1892. You might think, with a name like Jacob Drauby, he would be easy to track down. Never underestimate the power of these old players to try to deceive us. Jacob Drauby is listed in the 1880 census in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with his parents, Fred and Josephine. In the 1870 census, the family is listed with the name Dorbert. In the 1900 census, he is listed as Taubert, wife Clara, occupation baseball player. In fact, the whole family changed their name to Taubert. He is trying to hide from us.

Richard Malatzky was able to find an obituary for Clara Taubert on a site that has several Dauphin County obituaries. She died in 1918, was the widow of Jacob Taubert, and was buried in Harrisburg Cemetery. That's a pretty key clue. It would seem likely that Jacob would be buried in the same cemetery and a simple phone call to the cemetery might clear up the mystery. Ah, but this is Pennsylvania. I phoned Harrisburg Cemetery, and was greeted by a recorded message that said if I had a request for information, send the request in writing along with a check for $35. A mere $35 to pull a cemetery card.

Since we had a couple of other players to research in Harrisburg, Richard decided to take a trip to Harrisburg and go to the historical society himself. He was able to find that Drauby, a/k/a Taubert, died January 1, 1916 in Harrisburg and is buried at Harrisburg Cemetery.

Two Finds

I can't stress enough how good the above two finds were. In the case of Bristow, we had a player who used a "baseball name" and was known by a different last name both before and after his baseball career. In the case of Drauby, we had a player whose entire family changed their name to something completely different. Amazingly, we were finally able to find both players. Outstanding work by both Peter and Richard.

Jake Fox

Speaking of wrong names, Richard researched Sporting Life and found that that man who pitched one game for Philadelphia in 1902 was not Henry Fox, but his brother Jacob. Fortunately, he was able to easily locate Jacob in the same cemetery as Henry.

Ely's Not Coming

A man we list as Harry Ely pitched one game for Baltimore in 1892, getting torched for 9 runs. He gave up 14 hits, 7 walks, hit 2 batters, threw 4 wild pitches, and struck out no one. It's no small wonder that he vanished into oblivion after this noteworthy performance.

I thought about trying to write up all the details on this *Mystery of the Month*, but I got confused trying to decipher it. So I will try to make things as simple as possible. We know that someone named Ely pitched this game. According to the Baltimore Sun, he came from the Pennsylvania State League.

We don't know for sure that it was Harry. It could have been Harry Ely, real name Harry Cannon, who grew up in Camden, New Jersey. It could have been Isaac H. Ely from Reading, Pennsylvania. It could have been Isaac's brother, David Ely, also a ballplayer who played in the Pennsylvania State League. There was also a player named John Ely who played in the Pennsylvania State League. It is going to be difficult to find him until we figure out for sure who he is.

Birthday List

Here are the nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in March and April.

March 1	Nick Strincevich	95
March 4	Les Mueller	91
March 5	Alex Monchak	93
March 15	Don Lang	95
March 22	Carl Miles	92
March 23	Lou Lucier	92
March 28	Babe Martin	90
April 7	Bobby Doerr	92
April 8	Dick Adams	90
April 19	John O'Neil	90
April 26	Virgil Trucks	93
April 28	Charlie Metro	91
April 29	Art Kenney	94

Scoreboard

CATEGORY	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	17358	50	99.713
Births	16827	581	96.662
Assumed Alive	8521		48.949
Deaths	8630	257	49.575
Bats	16159	1133	93.448
Throws	16381	911	94.732
Heights	16542	750	95.663
Weights	16494	798	95.385
Debut Dates	17408	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9983	7425	57.347
Total			92.3788

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

DEBUT YR	NAME	CHANGE OR ADD	SOURCE
1925	Adams, Robert Burdette	Name: Robert Burnette Adams **Source: Obituary, 1910 census**	(N6)
1943	Alderson, Dale Leonard	Cemetery: Belden Cemetery, Belden, Nebraska **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1897	Amole, Morris George	D: March 9 1912 **Source: Death record**	(M3)
1895	Bailey, Linwood C.	Name: Linwood Clifton Bailey **Source: 1880 census**	(M3)
1969	Baker, Frank	D: Jan 28 2010 Raleigh, North Carolina Cemetery: Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida **Source: Funeral home**	(R4)
1894	Ball, Arthur	B: Apr 1872 Madison, Indiana **Source: 1880 census, obit**	(M3)
1884	Barber, Charles D.	Height: 5-10.5 Weight: 148 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1913	Bentley, Jack Needles	Name: John Needles Bentley **Source: WWI draft registration**	(A3)
1972	Bibby, James Blair	D: Feb 16 2010 Lynchburg, Virginia **Source: Lynchburg News Advance**	(C1)
1942	Blattner, Robert Garnett	Cemetery: Memorial Park Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri **Source: Cemetery**	(L7)
1940	Bragan, Robert Randall	D: Jan 21 2010 Fort Worth, Texas Cemetery: Greenwood Memorial Park, Fort Worth, Texas **Source: Fort Worth Star Telegram**	(C1)
1941	Branch, Norman Downs	Cemetery: Montgomery New Cemetery, Montgomery, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1899	Bristow, George T.	Name: George Gates Bristow Real name: George Gates Howlett B: May 13 1870 D: Oct 17 1939 Bellingham, Washington Cemetery: Woodlawn Cemetery, Ferndale, Washington **Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1870 census, Washington death records**	(M4)
1928	Caldwell, Earl Welton	Cemetery: Valley Memorial Gardens, McAllen, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(L7)
1987	Caminiti, Kenneth Gene	Cemetery: Cambo Ranch, Sabinal, Texas, cremated, ashes buried beneath a tree	(W4)

		Source: Ranch visit	
1890	Carman, George Wartman	Height: 5-04 Weight: 139 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1951	Chakales, Robert Edward	D: Feb 18 2010 Richmond, Virginia **Source: Richmond Times Dispatch**	(C1)
1937	Cisar, George Joseph	B: Aug 25 1910 D: Feb 19 2010 Elmhurst, Illinois Cemetery: Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside, Illinois **Source: Family**	(L6)
1902	Clay, Frederick C.	BL **Source: Trenton Times**	(M3)
1890	Conroy, Bernard Patrick	Height: 5-06 Weight: 136 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1892	Drauby, Jacob C.	Name: Jacob F. Drauby D: Jan 1 1916 Summerdale, Pennsylvania Cemetery: Harrisburg Cemetery, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania **Source: Cemetery, Harrisburg city directories**	(M3)
1951	Fahr, Gerald Warren	D: Feb 12 2010 Duluth, Georgia Cemetery: Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Paragould, Arkansas **Source: Funeral home**	(C1)
1883	Field, James C.	Brother of Samuel Jay Field **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M3)
1875	Field, Samuel Jay	Brother of James C. Field **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M3)
1896	Foster, Oscar E.	Height: 5-07 Weight: 175 **Source: New York Herald**	(M4)
1894	Fournier, Julius Henry	Height: 5-09.5 Weight: 160 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1891	Fox, George B.	Height: 5-09 Weight: 185 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1902	Fox, Henry	Name: Jacob Fox B: Sep 27 1879 Scranton, Pennsylvania D: Aug 21 1947 Scranton, Pennsylvania Cemetery: Forest Hill Cemetery, Scranton, Pennsylvania **Source: Scranton Times**	(M3)
1880	Gillespie, Peter Patrick	Use name: Patrick Gillespie **Source: Sporting Life**	(M3)
1929	Gudat, Marvin John	Cemetery: Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Meyersville, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1945	Hamner, Wesley Garvin	Last game: Jun 7 1945 **Source: Newspaper box score**	(V1)
1905	Harris, Joseph White	Name: Joseph Lionel White Harris **Source: Death certificate, census**	(N6)
1920	Harriss, William Jennings Bryan	B: Dec 11 1897 **Source: 1900 census**	(N6)
1885	Hart, James Aristotle (MGR)	Name: James Abner Hart **Source: Herringshaw's City Blue Book of Biography**	(M4)
1937	Henrich, Thomas David	D: Beavercreek, Ohio Cemetery: Cremated, ashes given to family **Source: Death certificate, funeral home**	(C3,B6)
1888	Higgins, William Edward	B: Dec 4 1859 Camden, Delaware	(M3)

		Source: 1880, 1900 census	
1876	Holbert, William Henry	Cemetery: Union Cemetery, Burtonsville, Maryland **Source: Cemetery**	(C1)
1913	Johnson, George Howard	Cemetery: Winnebago Cemetery, Winnebago, Nebraska **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1889	Jones, Alexander H.	Name: Alexander M. Jones Height: 5-09 Weight: 170 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1976	Kleven, Jay Allen	Cemetery: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hayward, California **Source: Cemetery**	(B6)
1932	Kowalik, Fabian Lorenz	Cemetery: Holy Trinity Cemetery, Falls City, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1876	Lafferty, Frank Bernard	B: Newark, Delaware **Source: Marriage record**	(M3)
1951	LaPalme, Paul Edmore	D: Feb 7 2010 Leominster, Massachusetts Cemetery: St. Leo Cemetery, Leominster, Massachusetts **Source: Fitchburg Sentinel & Enterprise**	(C1)
1941	Layne, Ivoria Hillis	D: Jan 12 2010 Signal Mountain, Tennessee Cemetery: Chattanooga National Cemetery, Chattanooga, Tennessee **Source: Chattanoogan**	(C1)
1952	Lepcio, Thaddeus Stanley	B: Jul 28 1929 **Source: Ted Lepcio**	(A3)
1910	Link, Frederick Theodore	Cemetery: Rosewood Park Cemetery, Humble, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1998	Loewer, Carlton Ernest	Name: Carlton Edward Loewer **Source: Wife**	(H9)
1873	Lovett, Leonard Walker	Height: 6-00 Weight: 170 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1893	Lucid, Cornelius Cecil	Cemetery unknown **Source: Holy Cross Cemetery, Houston, Texas**	(W4)
1944	Lyon, Russell Mayo	D: Calhoun Falls, South Carolina **Source: Grandson**	(F4)
1941	Manders, Harold Carl	D: Jan 21 2010 Waukee, Iowa Cemetery: Waukee Cemetery, Waukee, Iowa **Source: Des Moines Register**	(S3)
1894	Mason, Ernest	Name: Ernest Joseph Mason B: 1870 D: Jul 24 1904 **Source: 1880 census, obituary**	(M3)
1984	Mason, Roger Leroy	B: Sep 18 1957 **Source: Roger Mason**	(N5)
1883	McCormick, James J.	Height: 5-11 Weight: 178 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1895	McCormick, William J.	Name: William Joseph McCormick **Source: WWI draft registration**	(M4)
1995	McCracken, Quinton Antoine	B: Aug 16 1970 **Source: North Carolina birth index**	(F4)
1922	McGrew, Walter Howard	Cemetery: Rosewood Park Cemetery, Humble, Texas	(W4)

		Source: Cemetery	
1944	Metzig, William Alexander	Cemetery: Cremated **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1892	Miller, Frank Aloyvisous	Height: 5-09 Weight: 145 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1967	Motton, Curtell Howard	D: Jan 21 2010 Parkton, Maryland Cemetery: Druid Ridge Cemetery, Pikesville, Maryland **Source: Baltimore Orioles**	(V1)
1922	Murray, James Francis	B: Dec 31 1894 D: Jamaica, New York **Source: WWI draft registration, SSDI, New York Times**	(L1)
1906	Nealon, James Joseph	Use name: Joe Nealon **Source: Sporting Life**	(M3)
1891	Newell, John A.	D: Jan 23 1919 **Source: Death record**	(M3)
1895	O'Meara, Thomas Edward	Use name: Eddie O'Meara **Source: Sporting Life**	(M3)
1901	Prentiss, George Pepper	Cemetery: Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery, Wilmington, Delaware **Source: Death record**	(M3)
1917	Ring, James Joseph	D: Breezy Point, New York **Source: New York Times**	(L1)
1893	Rotes, William Clarence	Height: 5-11 Weight: 170 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1951	Runnels, James Edward	Cemetery: Forest Park Cemetery, Webster, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1886	Smith, Rex	TR Height: 5-10 Weight: 190 **Source: Milwaukee Sentinel**	(M4)
1890	Snyder, Charles F.	Height: 5-08 Weight: 150 **Source: Reading Eagle**	(M4)
1950	Strickland, George Bevan	D: Feb 21 2010 New Orleans, Louisiana Cemetery: Greenwood Cemetery, New Orleans, Louisiana **Source: New Orleans Times Picayune**	(C1)
1960	Walters, Kenneth Rogers	D: Jan 26 2010 San Ramon, California Cemetery: Cremated **Source: Contra Costa Times**	(L6)
1952	Waugh, James Elden	D: Feb 16 2010 Rock Hill, South Carolina Cemetery: Bourland Cemetery, Keller, Texas **Source: Daughter**	(PP)
1898	Weber, Charles P.	Cemetery unknown **Source: Magnolia Cemetery, Beaumont, Texas**	(W4)
1884	Weber, Joseph Edward	D: Wentworth, Ontario **Source: Ontario death records**	(R4)
1951	White, Samuel Charles	Name: Sammy Charles White **Source: Daughter**	(H9)
1944	Wilkins, Robert Linwood	D: Jan 3 2010 Shreveport, Louisiana Cemetery: Greenwood Cemetery, Shreveport, Louisiana **Source: Funeral home**	(L6)
1944	Wilks, Theodore	Cemetery: Forest Park Cemetery, Webster, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1958	Williams, Donald Fred	Name: Don Fred Williams **Source: Daughter**	(H9)

1928	Windle, Willis Brewer	Cemetery: Seaside Memorial Park, Corpus Christi, Texas **Source: Cemetery**	(W4)
1909	Yerkes, Stephen Douglas	Debut: Sep 16 1909 **Source: Box score**	(V1)
1957	Yewcic, Thomas	Name: Thomas J. Yewcic **Source: Public Records Index**	(P1)
1871	Zettlein, George	B: Jul 12 1844 Williamsburg, New York D: May 22 1905 **Source: Civil War pension, Brooklyn Eagle**	(M4)