



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
**April 1993**

## New Centenarian Found

The April *Find of the Month* goes to me for tracking down the one game Louisville pitcher, Charles Emig. All we knew about Emig was that he hailed from Bellevue, Kentucky, a fact confirmed by Joe Simenic. I searched the 1900 census and found Emig listed in Bellevue with a birthdate of April of 1875. He was born in Cincinnati.

One day I happened to be at the Mormon library going through the Social Security death index. I typed in Emig's name and was amazed to see him pop up with a birth date of April 5, 1875 and a death date of October 2, 1975. I sent to Oklahoma for a death certificate and saw that he was born in Ohio and his parents matched the Bellevue, Kentucky Emig.

Emig thus becomes the fifth oldest player of all time trailing only Chet Hoff, Robert Wright, John Daley, and Paul Otis. He was the second player to live to be 100 and was the oldest living player from May 8, 1973 to October 2, 1975. Emig is also the last known survivor of 19th century baseball. Interestingly, the first two centenarians, Ralph Miller and Emig, were both born in Cincinnati.

### Several Major Finds

This was a great month for finding missing players. In addition to Emig, we found three other long lost ballplayers. Two were found by me and one was found by Richard Topp.

#### Hiram Church

Hiram Church is another interesting story

regarding the Social Security death index. I was running a few names through it and I found a Hiram Church who died in Jacksonville, Florida. He was obviously too young to be the ballplayer but it led me to check Florida for the player, who we knew was born in Central Square, New York.

I went to the 1920 census and found Hiram L. Church, born in New York, living in Jacksonville and he was the right age. I wrote a lady in Utah who has an index of Florida deaths and she found him dying in 1926. I then wrote to Florida for the death certificate and filled in the rest of the information.

#### Frank Martin

Joe Simenic started the ball rolling on Martin when he sent Richard Topp a note listing Martin's marriage. Rich traced church records through the years until he located Martin's death. Fine work by the two former committee chairmen.

#### Harry Maupin

I found Harry Maupin's family in the 1900 and 1920 census living in St. Joseph, Missouri. I wrote Mike Welsh in St. Joseph, who located the birth date of one of Maupin's sons. I checked the Social Security death index for the son and found that he died in 1979 in Ashland, Oregon. His social security number was obtained in California. A call to an Ashland cemetery revealed the exact death date. I then called the Ashland library to ask them to send me his obituary. Their microfilm reader was broken and they promised to send me the obit as soon as it was repaired.

Meanwhile, I decided to check California to see if he died there. I located the 1945 death of his wife, Ruby, but no Harry. Then the obituary arrived for Maupin's son which mentioned that he was a Mormon. Back to the Mormon library I went and I checked their ancestral file. There was Harry, with a 1952 death in Parsons, Kansas. It also listed the address of his

granddaughter in Wellington, Utah. I called her and she told me that she tried to send several pictures of Harry to the Hall of Fame a few years ago, but they sent them right back. She is going to send them to me along with a completed questionnaire. Some of the material at the Mormon library is invaluable. If you have one in your area, I suggest you try it out.

### New Members

Please welcome Jim Mote, P. O. Box 1137, Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033 to the biographical committee. Jim's code number will be M2.

### How Do You Pronounce Lajoie?

I've always wondered that and Bob McConnell would like to get some committee members involved in learning accurate pronunciations of various pre-WWII players such as Bill Wambsganss, Frank Huelsman, and Deacon Phillippe. Anyone interested?

### If You Build It, They Will Come

Actually, I'm not talking about a ballpark here, but a cemetery. Bob Bailey has informed me that Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville has 16 ballplayers buried there and 8 club presidents. Does anyone know of any cemeteries who can beat this record? The 16 players are:

George Morris Boone  
Lewis Rogers Browning  
Harry R. Camnitz  
Howard Camnitz  
John P. Cline  
Hubbert Collins  
Irvin W. Hach  
John A. Haldeman  
John A. Kerins  
Fred C. Koster  
Franklin J. Pearce  
John Reccius  
Philip Reccius  
Charles Reising  
Rudolph Schwenck  
William V. Wolf

The club presidents are:

Walter N. Haldeman  
Fred Drexler, Jr.  
Zach Phelps

Thomas Hunt Stucky  
William H. Jackson, Jr.  
William L. Lyons, Jr.  
Mordecai H. Davidson  
Harry Pulliam

### What SABR Is About

Several months ago, I was busily tracking missing ballplayer Tom Gettinger. I knew Gettinger had lived in Pensacola, Florida so I checked the SABR directory and contacted Jim Whittington, a SABR member I had never met. Jim did a lot of work to help track down Gettinger and even located Gettinger's granddaughter who filled out a questionnaire and sent me a picture of Gettinger. Jim displays what makes SABR the fine organization that it is.

By the way, the star pitcher of Tate High School in Pensacola is Chris Parker, Gettinger's great great grandson. If Parker makes the majors, it could be the first time the great great grandson of a major leaguer has made the major leagues. Tate is also the alma mater of Don Sutton, Jay Bell, and Travis Fryman.

### Does Anyone Know?

I show Willard A. Holland as being born in Fort Wayne, Indiana with his death date being unknown. In the December 1980 biographical report he is listed with a birth of Georgetown, Delaware and a death of July 19, 1930 in Philadelphia. Does anyone know the source of that information and why it may have been changed? Can someone find me an obituary?

### Convention Update

I hope all of you are planning to attend the SABR convention in San Diego. As always it promises to be an enjoyable weekend highlighted by our biographical committee meeting. (Well, it's a highlight to me.) Anyway, our meeting is scheduled from 10:10 - 11:30 Saturday morning, June 26 in Room C. If you have any agenda items, try to let me know in advance of the meeting. I'll look forward to seeing all of you there.

### I'd Rather Switch Than Fight

Bob McConnell has informed me of another player who changed the way he batted, although he did switch-hit in between. Biff Pocaroba (Yes, Biff is his real first name) began as a

right-handed batter in 1975, switch-hit for the next five years, and then hit left-handed the last four years of his career. Whatever works.

### Birthday List

We have several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in May, including our oldest ever, Chet Hoff, who turns 102. Please send a card.

May 2	Lucas Turk	95
May 7	Sal Gliatto	91
May 8	Chester Hoff	102
May 21	Elton Langford	94
May 22	Decatur Jones	91

### Mr. Livingstone, I Presume?

On September 6, 1901, a man named Jacob M. Livingstone pitched one game for the New York Giants. We list this man as being born January 1, 1880 in St. Petersburg, Russia and dying March 22, 1949 in Wassaic, New York. Richard Topp recently sent me some documentation that Erwin Lynn had obtained which cast serious doubts as to whether this is our ballplayer. Hence, Livingstone is our April *Mystery of the Month*.

According to the death certificate Livingstone was born January 1, 1886, which would make him 15 years old in 1901. Now birth dates on

death certificates are not necessarily reliable but it certainly gives one pause. Also, Livingstone died in a mental institution and although he entered the facility in 1922, the records indicate that he had lived in institutions all his life.

The 1901 Giants certainly had a unique pitching staff featuring three deaf pitchers as well as missing ballplayer Mysterious Bill Magee but I question whether they also included a 15 year old from a mental hospital. Can anyone shed any more light on Mr. Livingstone?

### The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	13874	72	99.484
Total Complete Births	13142	804	94.235
Total Complete Deaths	6888	485	49.391
Total Assumed Alive	6573		47.132
Total Bats	12538	1305	90.573
Total Throws	12810	1033	92.538
Total Heights	12714	1129	91.844
Total Weights	12636	1207	91.281
Total Debut Dates	13946	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9907	4039	71.038
Total Completion			91.8343

## Charles William "Jack" Harper

By Bob Tiemann

B: April 2, 1878, Franklin, Pennsylvania  
D: September 30, 1950, Jamestown, New York  
BRTR 6-00 178

Charles W. Harper, better known as Jack, was a righthanded fastball pitcher who won 23 games in two different seasons in the first years of this century but had his career cut short by Frank Chance and the Chicago Cubs management. Harper often wore a lucky blue shirt under his uniform, so he was sometimes called "Blue Sleeves." He was noted for his wildness and fiery temper and also had a habit of sticking his bare hand in front of hard hit drives. He was often out of action by the last month of the season, pitching just one September game in 1902, '03, '05, and '06 combined.

Harper grew up in the oil region of northwest Pennsylvania but got his professional start with Montgomery in the Southern League in 1898. That league blew up in May, but a month later he caught on with Grand Rapids in the Interstate League. The following year, he was 12-29 with the nomadic last place club, which moved from Grand Rapids to Columbus to Springfield, Ohio, during the season. Late in the year he was sold to the even sorrier Cleveland Exiles, the worst team in major league history for a reported sale price of \$1000. Jack's debut on September 18th was a memorable one, since he won 5-4 in 10 innings to snap Cleveland's record 24-game losing streak. He lost his next four games, as the Exiles finished the season by losing 16 straight.

With the consolidation of the NL from 12 teams to 8, Harper was being farmed out to Fort Wayne (Western Association) in May. He was recalled by the Cardinals for 1901 and led the team with a 23-13 record. In addition to his fastball, he had a tricky curve that gave hitters trouble the first time they saw it. Initially signed to a \$1200 contract, he got a midseason raise to \$1800 that allowed him to get married to Mary Dockery of Franklin, Pa. In 1902, he jumped across town to the new AL St. Louis Browns, winning 15 games, then jumped back to the NL with Cincinnati for 1903. After winning just 6 that season, he lost quite a bit of weight and rebounded in 1904 to post 23 wins for the Reds, including a one-hitter on May 20th in which Frank Roth of the Phillies broke up his no-hit bid with a single in the ninth.

In his first start of 1906, he hit Frank Chance with a pitch and inadvertently sealed his own professional doom. There was already bad blood between the two, Harper having hit Chance in the face with a pitch in 1903. Now Chance got his revenge in a unique way. On May 8th, he had the Cubs buy Harper's contract from the Reds. Knowing what was in store, Jack at first refused to report. After he was paid a portion of the sale price, however, he agreed to join the team. Chance then simply let him rot on the bench. He pitched just one game for Chicago on June 6th and suffered a thumb injury. After he recovered, he merely sat. After holding out all of 1907, he finally retired in 1908 without ever having pitched again. His career won-lost record is listed as 79-63.

He moved to Jamestown, New York, where he ran the rapid transit company for many years and later operated a grill and a filling station. He died in Jamestown at age 72.

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

1942 Abreu, Joseph Lawrence	Is Deceased	(H1)
1894 Anderson, John Joseph	B: <u>Sarpsborg, Norway</u>	(X1)
1872 Burdock, John Joseph	D: <u>Nov 27 1931</u>	(T1)
1890 Church, Hiram Lincoln	B: <u>Nov 23 1863</u>	(C1)
	D: <u>Feb 23 1926</u>	
	<u>Jacksonville, Florida</u>	
1946 Cooper, Orge Patterson	D: <u>Mar 15 1993</u>	(H1)
	<u>Charlotte, North Carolina</u>	
1930 Dean, Jay Hanna	B: <u>Jan 16 1910</u>	(C1)
1916 Divis, Edward G.	Name: <u>Edward George Divis</u>	(H1)
1992 Easley, Damion Jacinto	Name: <u>Jacinto Damion Easley</u>	(H1)
1896 Emig, Charles H.	Name: <u>Charles Henry Emig</u>	(C1)
	B: <u>Apr 5 1875</u>	
	<u>Cincinnati, Ohio</u>	
	D: <u>Oct 2 1975</u>	
	<u>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</u>	
1958 Graber, Rodney Blaine	B: <u>Jun 20 1930</u>	(H1)
	<u>Massillon, Ohio</u>	
1992 Hartsock, Jeffrey Roger	B: <u>Fairfield, Ohio</u>	(H1)
1933 Hutcheson, Joseph Johnson	D: <u>Feb 23 1993</u>	(H1)
	<u>Tyler, Texas</u>	
1902 Jacobs, Morris Elmore	B: <u>Dec 1877</u>	(B6)
	<u>Louisville, Kentucky</u>	
1992 Jaha, John Emile	Name: <u>John Emil Jaha</u>	(H1)
1925 Koenig, Mark Anthony	D: <u>Apr 22 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Willows, California</u>	
1882 Lane, George M.	Delete death data. Wrong man.	(S1)
1897 Martin, Frank	B: <u>Feb 28 1879</u>	(T1)
	D: <u>Sep 30 1924</u>	
	<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>	
1898 Maupin, Henry Carr	Name: <u>Harry Carr Maupin</u>	(C1)
	D: <u>Aug 23 1952</u>	
	<u>Parsons, Kansas</u>	
1885 McVey, George W.	B: <u>Sep 16 1865</u>	(D2)
1915 Meadows, Henry Lee	Height: <u>6-00</u>	(P1)
1892 Miller, Frank E.	Debut: <u>Sep 16 1892</u>	(S1)
1875 Munn, Horatio	Name: <u>Horatio B. Munn</u>	(T1)
1992 Ramsey, Fernando David	Name: <u>Fernando David Ramsey y Ramsey</u>	(H1)
1884 Reising, Charles	B: <u>Lanesville, Indiana</u>	(B6)
1931 Schumacher, Harold Henry	D: <u>Apr 21 1993</u>	(C1)
	<u>Cooperstown, New York</u>	
1889 Shannon, Daniel W.	Height: <u>5-09</u>	(B6)
1992 Velasquez, Guillermo	Name: <u>Guillermo Velasquez y Burgara</u>	(H1)