



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
July 1996

Zowie!!!!!!! Joe Dowie Found

Joe Dowie, outfielder for Baltimore in 1889, has been found by Jay Sanford. For this, Jay captures the July *Find of the Month* award.

At one time it was written that Dowie had been shot in a barroom brawl in the 1890s. Dowie was actually shot in the crossfire of a barroom brawl and a charity game was held to raise money for his injuries. Jay found that the umpire for this game was none other than Joe Dowie himself.

Tom Hufford had done quite a bit of research on Dowie and had suspected that Dowie had died in New Orleans in 1917. Jay made a trip to Louisiana and visited the Louisiana Archives in Baton Rouge. There he found Dowie's birth certificate as well as his death certificate. There was no obituary in the New Orleans papers. Dowie was buried in St. Vincent Cemetery in New Orleans in a plot with his second wife rather than with the rest of the Dowie family. This is one of the reasons Dowie was so difficult to find. Great work!

The Social Security Death Index

Great news! The Social Security Death Index is now accessible via the World Wide Web. I was able to locate several dead ballplayers by searching through it. You can search by any combination of last or first name, partial birth or death dates, place the SSNO was obtained, or last place of residence. This can save us lots of time. The address is:

<http://www.infobases.com/ssdi/query01.htm>

Thanks to John Zajc for providing this information.

The Future

While I was looking through the web the other day, I came across the Internet Movie Database. In this database, you could obtain biographical and movie information on virtually any actor. I was even able to inquire on former ballplayer turned stunt man Jophery Brown. You could also e-mail in any new information.

I would love to see our database accessible that way. The database could be stored in a central location rather than on my PC and people could inquire on it and get up-to-date information at any time. Corrections could be e-mailed to me. Is anyone well-versed in the Internet enough to know what it would take to make this happen?

Olde English

I was glancing at a list of some of the older living players the other day and it struck me that if your last name is English, you might be prone to longevity. There have been three players whose last name is English who have played in the major leagues. All are living. Woody English is 89, Gil English is 87, and Charles English is 86. I hear they are coming out with their own line of muffins.

Old Timers

Speaking of old, Richard Puff is doing research on professional players who played prior to 1871. If anyone comes across the death of a player from that era, please send it along to Rich.

Old Mail

The questionnaires we received on the Stovall brothers come with an interesting story. The Stovalls' niece made a trip to Cooperstown and

obtained a copy of their biographical file. In it was a letter Joe Simenic had written back in 1973. She then contacted Joe through the Cleveland Plain-Dealer where Joe has gained near legendary status. She filled out a very detailed questionnaire and corrected their place of birth. I wonder how much a stamp cost in 1973.

Birthday List (Old Guys)

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in August. Make sure you send a card.

August 6	Jim Turner	93
August 8	Tot Pressnell	90
August 26	Elmer Klumpp	90
August 30	Robert Friedrichs	90

Also, our own Joe Simenic celebrates a birthday on August 4. Hmmm! How did his name sneak in with all these 90-year-olds?

Can Someone Solve The Riddle?

John Riddle played catcher and outfield for Washington in 1889 and Philadelphia in 1890. Despite a glowing .123 lifetime average, this was the extent of his major league career.

We list him as being born in February of 1864 in Pennsylvania. The 1900 New Jersey census lists a John Riddle that matches our birth information living in Camden with his wife Mary, and children, Harry and Mabel. He had that typical ballplayer occupation, saloon keeper. In the 1920 census, he was still living in Camden with his 37-year-old housekeeper, Nancy Middleton. No other family was mentioned. So far, we have found nothing on him in Camden after that time. This qualifies Mr. Riddle as our *July Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14450	71	99.511
Total Complete Births	13771	750	94.835
Total Complete Deaths	7225	467	49.756
Total Assumed Alive	6829		47.028
Total Bats	13167	1249	91.336
Total Throws	13413	1003	93.043
Total Heights	13413	1003	93.043
Total Weights	13349	1067	92.599
Total Debut Dates	14521	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9980	4541	68.728
Total Completion			92.2077

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1907 Baxter, John Morris	BRTR	(D7)
1904 Stovall, George Thomas	B: <u>Leeds, Missouri</u>	(S1)
1903 Stovall, Jesse Cramer	B: <u>Leeds, Missouri</u>	(S1)

New Information Received:

1949 Baumer, James Sloan	D: <u>Jul 8 1996</u> <u>Paoli, Pennsylvania</u>	(T1)
1967 Bowlin, Lois Weldon	Debut: <u>Sep 16 1967</u>	(V1)
1943 Camelli, Henry Richard	D: <u>Jul 14 1996</u> <u>Wellesley, Massachusetts</u>	(S4)
1889 Dowie, Joseph E.	D: <u>Mar 4 1917</u> <u>New Orleans, Louisiana</u>	(S5)
1934 Holden, Joseph Francis	D: <u>May 10 1996</u> <u>St. Clair, Pennsylvania</u>	(S3)
1935 Hollingsworth, Albert Wayne	D: <u>Apr 28 1996</u> <u>Austin, Texas</u>	(S3)
1950 Keriazakos, Constantine Nicholas	D: <u>May 4 1996</u> <u>Hilton Head, South Carolina</u>	(S3)
1888 Kilroy, Michael Joseph	Height: <u>5-11</u> Weight: <u>180</u>	(R1)
1890 Knauss, Frank H.	Height: <u>5-10</u>	(R1)
1951 Lewandowski, Daniel William	D: <u>Jul 19 1996</u> <u>Hamilton, Ontario</u>	(O1)
1885 Mack, Joseph	Height: <u>5-08</u> Weight: <u>182</u>	(R1)
1940 Manno, Donald D.	B: <u>May 4 1915</u> D: <u>Mar 11 1995</u> <u>Williamsport, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1954 Moryn, Walter Joseph	D: <u>Jul 21 1996</u> <u>Winfield, Illinois</u>	(T1)
1943 Munger, George David	D: <u>Jul 23 1996</u> <u>Houston, Texas</u>	(C1)
1932 Smith, Arthur Laird	D: <u>Nov 22 1995</u> <u>Norwalk, Connecticut</u>	(B3)
1959 Snyder, Gene Walter	D: <u>Jun 2 1996</u> <u>York, Pennsylvania</u>	(S3)
1889 Swartzel, Parke B.	Height: <u>5-10</u>	(R1)
1929 Wineapple, Edward	D: <u>Jul 23 1996</u> <u>Delray Beach, Florida</u>	(V1)