

SABR
Biographical Research Committee
January/February 2003 Report

Charles Jones Found

Our newest committee member, Peter Mancuso, has already captured his first *Find of the Month* award by locating Charles F. Jones of the 1884 Brooklyn AA club. He had help from Richard Malatzky, Peter Morris, and Joe Simenic. This required a lot of detective work and obviously, finding someone named Charles Jones isn't like finding someone named Rufus T. Firefly.

First of all, notes from Sporting Life in 1885 showed that the Charles Jones who played with Brooklyn played with Newark in 1885, Binghamton in 1886, and Worcester in 1889. He was definitely from New York City. In 1891, he joined the New York City police force. In 1894, Charles F. Jones, "formerly 3B of the Newark and Worcester team" is the captain of the 16th precinct team in a game played at the Polo Grounds between the 9th and 16th precinct teams. Notes about Jones being a policeman continue in the Sporting News as late as 1898. The New York City directories show him as a ballplayer in 1891/1892. He appears in the 1910 census as a policeman.

Peter Mancuso obtained his career record from the New York City Police Museum. He was appointed to the NYPD in 1892 and was promoted to sergeant in 1913. His date of birth was October 24, 1861 which matches the date in the 1910 census. He retired in 1918. Jones's police pension record showed his date of death as September 15, 1922 and stated that he was a sergeant in the 16th precinct, the precinct for which he played in 1894. He also worked for 2 other precincts as well. The death certificate showed that he died in St. Francis Hospital in the Bronx and was buried in St. Raymond's cemetery. Excellent work by all involved!

Better Name, But Just As Tough

Certainly a more distinctive name than Charles Jones is Huyler Westervelt. I always thought that this guy should be easy to find. He was a stockbroker in New York City for years and definitely has a unique name. However, he disappeared from New York City after 1936 and nobody knew what happened to him. Richard Malatzky was able to do an online search of the New York Times and found the death of Huyler's wife in 1960 and the marriage of his daughter Madelon to Otto von Stockhausen Whitelock. Huyler's wife died in Pelham Manor, New York so Richard checked there and found Huyler's death in 1949. The New York Herald Tribune carried an obituary and, although it didn't mention baseball, it is obvious that this is our missing player. By the way, Huyler was his mother's maiden name.

George Fisher

Bob McConnell, Jon Dunkle, Richard Malatzky, and Peter Morris managed to put together all the evidence that led to tracking down George Fisher's death in 1937 in Oakland, California. They proved that the George Fisher who played for Cleveland and Wilmington in 1884 was born in Wilmington and moved to Oakland, California. According to the death certificate, the Fisher who died in Oakland was born in Wilmington and had lived in Oakland for 50 years, meaning he moved there at exactly the same time the ballplayer was known to have moved there. Obviously, this is our missing player.

It's All In The Cards

George Treadway had been a bit of an enigma. He had at one time been thought to be black, which had proven to be false. He had also been listed as dying in Riverside, California on November 5, 1928. However, his California death certificate listed him as 85 years old; his birth date was 1843. Hence, we eliminated him from consideration as he would have been 50 when he debuted in 1893. Andy McCue found an obituary in the Riverside newspaper and it contained the key information that among his possessions was a membership card in the Association of Professional Baseball Players. Apparently, whoever filled out his death certificate miscalculated his age. He actually was born in 1866. He must have looked a bit grizzled.

And I'm Glad My Parents Didn't Name Me....

Vivian Potts had lived all his life in Bristol, Pennsylvania. We knew his son had died there in 1975. Richard Malatzky searched the cemeteries of Bristol and found that Vivian died in Bristol on August 17, 1934.

The Missing Fruit Peddler

George Hodson was listed in the 1900 Connecticut census as a ballplayer living in Hartford. He was born in Pennsylvania. By 1910, he had moved to California and was living in San Rafael and working as a fruit peddler. He was still there in 1920 and I could never find a death certificate for him in California. I had assumed he must have died elsewhere.

Peter Morris was able to do a phonetic search for his name and came up with a George Hodgdon, who died in San Rafael in 1924. Going back to the 1880 census, Richard Malatzky was able to locate the family in Philadelphia under the name Hodgdon. A check of the Philadelphia city directories for the late 1890s showed a George Hodgdon listed as a ballplayer. The San Rafael obituary confirmed through the family connection that the guy who died in California was indeed the Philadelphia ballplayer. This is a terrific find! It's pretty tough to find people when they go under a different name.

Marcus Kragen

If that name doesn't sound familiar to any of you, that is the real name of the player we list as Martin Creegan. Creegan had also been listed as Mark Creegan and Mike Creegan. He was definitely from the San Francisco area. Richard Malatzky couldn't find anyone who fit, so he tried the soundex for similar sounding names. He came up with Marcus Kragen and was able to contact the family. They confirmed he was the player and provided documentation on his career that showed he played as Creegan because his family didn't want him to play baseball. Amazing find!

The Missing Childs Report

David Nemec got the ball rolling on this one when he discovered that that the first baseman for Columbus on May 31, 1883 was not James Field, as was originally thought, but a man named Childs, who had been the first baseman for Yale. Peter Morris looked into this and found that Yale had a first baseman at that time named Samuel Childs. Peter searched for him through census records and found that he had become a doctor and moved to Denver, Colorado. Jay Sanford was then able to

locate a death certificate for Childs in Denver. Rich Bozzone then found a Who's Who entry for Childs listing his many medical achievements as well as his birth date. Rick Benner found that the Yale athletic department actually listed Childs on their roster of Yale major leaguers. As you can see, this was a group effort and identifies a previously unknown major leaguer.

Steve Bechler

Steve Bechler's unfortunate death in spring training make him the 18th player to die within a year of his major league debut, a scant 164 day stretch. The shortest period of time between a player's debut and his death was 1965 Angel pitcher Dick Wantz who died of cancer a mere 30 days after his debut. Here is the complete list:

	<u>Player</u>	<u>Debut</u>	<u>Death Date</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
1.	Richard Wantz	04/13/1965	05/13/1965	30	Cancer
2.	Al Thake	06/13/1872	09/01/1872	80	Drowned
3.	Charles Peete	07/17/1956	11/27/1956	133	Plane crash
4.	Mickey Fuentes	09/01/1969	01/29/1970	150	Murdered
5.	Francis Levy	04/30/1907	10/04/1907	157	Appendicitis
6.	Sam McMackin	09/04/1902	02/11/1903	160	Pneumonia
7.	Steve Bechler	09/06/2002	02/17/2003	164	Heat stroke
8.	Augustine Williams	04/18/1890	10/14/1890	179	Cold Complications
9.	Paul Edmondson	06/20/1969	02/13/1970	238	Auto accident
10.	Ralph Sharman	09/10/1917	05/24/1918	256	Drowned
11.	Edgar McNabb	05/12/1893	02/28/1894	292	Suicide
12.	Clytus Bentley	04/26/1872	02/26/1873	306	Unknown
13.	Alvin Montgomery	06/20/1941	04/26/1942	310	Auto accident
14.	George Grossart	06/07/1901	04/18/1902	315	Tuberculosis
15.	Elmer White	05/04/1871	03/17/1872	318	Unknown
16.	Odie Porter	06/16/1902	05/02/1903	320	Unknown
17.	George Prentiss	09/23/1901	09/08/1902	350	Typhoid
18.	Herbert Gorman	04/19/1952	04/05/1953	351	Heart attack

Doctor, Doctor!

According to Jamie Selko, he believes that Gail Hopkins may be the only player to earn both a PhD and an MD. Does anyone know of any others?

Last Month's Mystery

Joe Simenic obtained a completed questionnaire from Andy Bednar's sister several years ago. Our information agrees with that, so it appears there is no reason to make any changes.

New Members

Please welcome Peter Mancuso to the biographical committee. Peter's address is 6970 Ely Road, New Hope, PA 18938. His code number will be M0.

Research Help

Biographical Research Committee member Bill Deane (PO Box 47, Fly Creek, NY 13337; 607-547-5786; DizDeane@USAdatanet.net) is a veteran researcher living near the National Baseball Library, and is available to do research (biographical or otherwise) there for those not able to come to Cooperstown. Contact Bill for details.

Committee Meeting

In case you haven't seen it, our biographical committee meeting will be at 8:00 AM on Friday during the convention. Don't miss it.

Birthday List

Here is the list of 90 year olds celebrating birthdays in March and April. Make sure you send them a card.

March 2	Ace Adams	91
March 11	James Bucher	92
April 1	Jake Wade	91
April 9	Howard Groskloss	97
	Claude Passeau	94
April 14	Jack Radtke	90
April 15	Eddie Mayo	93
April 17	Robert Stevens	96
April 22	Marvin Center	91
April 25	Woodrow Davis	90
April 27	Bernard Uhalt	93

Lost Nichols

In 1877, four Louisville players were thrown out of baseball for throwing games. Three of them, Bill Craver, George Hall, and Jim Devlin have been found. The one missing guy is Albert Nichols and we know virtually nothing about him other than he was from Brooklyn. No one listed in the 1900 Brooklyn census appears to be him. There was an Alfred Nichols who died June 21, 1934 in Brooklyn at the age of 89 who is about the only possibility. Can anyone provide any clues on this guy? This is our *Mystery of the Month*.

Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Names	15876	56	99.649
Births	15248	684	95.707
Assumed Alive	7629		47.885
Deaths	7937	366	49.818
Bats	14630	1191	92.472
Throws	14865	956	93.957
Heights	14943	878	94.450
Weights	14902	919	94.191
Debut Dates	15932	0	100.000
Questionnaires	9985	5947	62.673
Total			92.3068

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

1884	Creegan, Martin	Name: <u>Mark Creegan</u> Real Name: <u>Marcus Kragen</u> B: <u>1864</u> <u>San Francisco, California</u> D: <u>Sep 29 1920</u> <u>San Francisco, California</u>	(M3)
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New Information Received:

1941	Albosta, Edward John	D: <u>Jan 7 2003</u> <u>Saginaw, Michigan</u>	(C1)
1902	Arndt, Harry J.	BR	(C2)
1884	Aydelott, Jacob Stuart	BLTR	(C2)
1954	Beard, Ralph William	D: <u>Feb 10 2003</u> <u>West Palm Beach, Florida</u>	(H9)
2002	Bechler, Steven Scott	D: <u>Feb 17 2003</u> <u>Ft. Lauderdale, Florida</u>	(C1)
1992	Bottenfield, Kent Dennis	BR	(P1)
1931	Brower, Louis Lester	B: <u>Cleveland, Ohio</u>	(F4)
1893	Brown, Richard P.	D: <u>Mar 10 1948</u>	(M4)
1883	Childs,	Name: <u>Samuel Beresford Childs</u> B: <u>Nov 6 1861</u> <u>East Hartford, Connecticut</u> D: <u>May 21 1938</u> <u>Denver, Colorado</u>	(M4)
1884	Daisy, George R.	B: <u>Gloucester, New Jersey</u>	(L5)
1884	Fisher, George C.	Name: <u>George Cresse Fisher</u> B: <u>Aug 20 1855</u> D: <u>Jan 29 1937</u> <u>Oakland, California</u>	(M4)
1936	Ford, William B.	Name: <u>William Brown Ford</u>	(H4)
1886	Gessner, Charles J.	Name: <u>Charles R. Gessner</u> B: <u>Dec 1863</u> D: <u>May 25 1922</u> <u>Washington, D.C.</u>	(M3)
1935	Gumbert, Harry Edward	Name: <u>Harry Edwards Gumbert</u>	(F4)
1886	Harding, Louis Edward	Name: <u>Edward H. A. Harding</u> B: <u>1862</u> <u>Missouri</u>	(M4)
1901	Hayden, John Francis	Weight: <u>170</u>	(M4)
1894	Hodson, George S.	Real Name: <u>George S. Hodgdon</u> D: <u>Jan 9 1924</u> <u>San Rafael, California</u>	(M4)

1884	Jones, Charles F.	B: <u>Oct 24 1861</u> D: <u>Sep 15 1922</u> <u>New York, New York</u>	(M0)
1978	Kammeyer, Robert Lynn	D: <u>Jan 27 2003</u> <u>Sacramento, California</u>	(C1)
1919	Koenigsmark, William Thomas	Name: <u>Willis Thomas Koenigsmark</u>	(H9)
1944	Kosman, Michael Thomas	D: <u>Dec 10 2002</u> <u>Lafayette, Indiana</u>	(C2)
1942	Kvasnak, Alexander	D: <u>Sep 26 2002</u> <u>Arcadia, California</u>	(C1)
1957	Landrum, Donald Leroy	D: <u>Jan 9 2003</u> <u>Pittsburg, California</u>	(D6)
1939	Loane, Robert Kenneth	D: <u>Dec 11 2002</u> <u>Monterey, California</u>	(C1)
1901	McFadden, Bernard Joseph	B: <u>Mar 20 1877</u>	(O4)
1943	Metheny, Arthur Beauregard	D: <u>Jan 2 2003</u> <u>Virginia Beach, Virginia</u>	(O2)
1937	Meyer, Lambert Dalton	D: <u>Jan 19 2003</u> <u>Fort Worth, Texas</u>	(D6)
1882	Muldoon, Michael D.	B: <u>Apr 9 1858</u> <u>Westmeath County, Ireland</u>	(M4)
1922	O'Neill, Joseph Henry	B: <u>Nov 20 1892</u> <u>Lindsay, Ontario</u>	(O4)
1948	Ostrowski, Joseph Paul	D: <u>Jan 3 2003</u> <u>Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania</u>	(H9)
1971	Parker, William David	D: <u>Feb 9 2003</u> <u>Sun City West, Arizona</u>	(C1)
1912	Pearce, George Thomas	Name: <u>George Thomas Pierce</u> B: <u>Shabbona Grove, Illinois</u>	(SE)
1871	Pearce, Richard J.	D: <u>Sep 18 1908</u>	(S1)
2000	Perez, Santiago Alberto	Weight: <u>185</u>	(F4)
1936	Peters, Russell Dixon	D: <u>Feb 21 2003</u> <u>Harrisonburg, Virginia</u>	(H4)
1999	Pote, Louis William	B: <u>Aug 21 1971</u>	(H9)
1892	Potts, Vivian	D: <u>Aug 17 1934</u> <u>Bristol, Pennsylvania</u>	(M3)
1875	Richmond, John H.	B: <u>Mar 5 1854</u>	(M4)
1950	Rinker, Robert John	D: <u>Dec 19 2002</u> <u>Hazleton, Pennsylvania</u>	(C1)
1945	Rudolph, Ernest William	D: <u>Jan 13 2003</u> <u>Black River Falls, Wisconsin</u>	(N4)
1972	Ryerson, Gary Lawrence	B: <u>Jun 17 1948</u>	(H9)
1924	Schultz, Webb Carl	Name: <u>Wilbert Carl Schultz</u>	(O4)
1941	Shokes, Edward Christopher	D: <u>Sep 14 2002</u> <u>Winchester, Virginia</u>	(C1)
1939	Spindel, Harold Stewart	D: <u>Jul 28 2002</u> <u>San Clemente, California</u>	(C1)
1955	Sullivan, Haywood Cooper	D: <u>Feb 12 2003</u> <u>Fort Myers, Florida</u>	(C1)
1882	Sweeney, William J.	Height: <u>5-11</u> Weight: <u>160</u>	(M4)

1944	Thesenga, Arnold Joseph	D: <u>Dec 3 2002</u> <u>Wichita, Kansas</u>	(C1)
1893	Treadway, George B.	B: <u>Nov 11 1866</u> <u>Greenup County, Kentucky</u>	(BL)
1943	Webb, William Frederick	Name: <u>Willie Fred Webb</u>	(H9)
1894	Westervelt, Huyler	B: <u>Oct 1 1869</u> <u>Tenafly, New Jersey</u>	(M3)
		D: <u>Oct 14 1949</u> <u>Pelham Manor, New York</u>	
1955	Westlake, James Patrick	D: <u>Jan 3 2003</u> <u>Sacramento, California</u>	(C1)
1946	Whitman, Dick Corwin	D: <u>Feb 12 2003</u> <u>Peoria, Arizona</u>	(N5)
1943	Zarilla, Allen Lee	D: <u>Aug 28 1996</u>	(B6)