



**Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report**  
**May/June 1998**

## We Found Our Munn

Richard Malatzky captures the *Find of the Month* award for tracking down Horatio Munn. Richard has been doing tireless work at various venues around New York City and searched through the vital records in New York until he located the death certificate of Horatio Brinsmade Munn. Then he and Debbi Dagavarian-Bonar were able to locate his birth record in Newark, New Jersey. Finding National Association players is next to impossible but we have nailed a couple of them lately. Great work!

### And Another

Richard Malatzky has also tracked down 1889 St. Louis player James C. Gill. It is known that Gill played with York (Pa.) in 1890 and 1891. Richard tracked him to Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. The obit doesn't mention baseball, but it did say that his body was being shipped to York for burial. Richard has also been sending me leads on many other players. If you have a player you are interested in tracking down, let me know and I'll send you what I have.

### Convention Report

I just got back from the SABR convention in San Francisco and my feet are now beginning to thaw after the game at Candlestick Park. We had our committee meeting on Thursday. Unfortunately, the meeting was scheduled so early in the convention that many committee members had not yet arrived. I barely made it to the meeting myself.

One of the items we discussed was compiling a list of players who spent the season with a club and never got into a game. Some players spent all season and some spent part of a season. For

example, Hall of Famer Satchel Paige and basketball star Bill Sharman both spent time on major league clubs without getting into a game.

### New Members

Please welcome Steve Gajewski, 30 Ginger Lane, Reading, Pennsylvania 19606 to the bio team. Steve's code number will be G5.

### Selko Notes

Jamie Selko sent along the following notes about a couple of players. Walt Dropo was the first round draft choice of the Providence Steamrollers in the NBA in 1947. And Cal McVey once served as a shotgun toting body guard for heavyweight champion Jack Johnson.

### An Interesting Fact

In recent years, we have seen many black athletes change their name to a Muslim name, such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in basketball and Ahmad Rashad in football. So far, we have yet to have a baseball player do that. Not especially significant, but someone pointed that out to me the other day.

### Birthday List

Here is the list of nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in July and August. Be sure to send a card.

July 9	Lou Polli	97
July 10	Ad Liska	92
July 12	Allen Benson	90
July 25	Joe Zapustas	91
August 6	Jim Turner	95
August 7	Clarence Heise	91
August 8	Tot Pressnell	92
August 11	Woody Jensen	91
August 20	Al Lopez	90
August 21	Wallace Hebert	91

## No More Moore

Our *Mystery of the Month* comes from Dick Thompson. Dick was looking through Tom Shea's files and discovered that George Raymond Moore, who we listed as pitching for Pittsburgh June 14, 1905 is not the right guy. George Raymond Moore was a career minor league infielder.

The Boston Globe stated, "Flaherty gave way to a youngster named Moore, whom catcher Smith dug up somewhere in Ohio and who undoubtedly is the biggest man playing ball. He stands 6'4" and weighs over 200 pounds." Sporting Life also mentions that Moore is from Ohio. There is also a George Moore listed on the roster of Altoona, Pa. in 1905 as a pitcher. It's possible this might be him.

### The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14831	66	99.557
Total Complete Births	14154	743	95.012
Total Complete Deaths	7429	456	49.869
Total Assumed Alive	7012		47.070
Total Bats	13545	1246	91.576
Total Throws	13801	990	93.307
Total Heights	13797	994	93.280
Total Weights	13734	1057	92.854
Total Debut Dates	14897	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9982	4915	67.007
Total Completion			92.1683

## HENRY S. BURROUGHS

By Peto Morris

b. c1845 New Jersey d. March 31, 1878 Newark, NJ 5'8", 147

The National Association was the first professional baseball league, and by any reasonable criterion, the first major league. Most of its players became neither rich nor famous, but they paved the way for the generations of richly rewarded professional athletes who have followed them. The vast majority at least had the satisfaction of witnessing professional baseball become successful, and knowing the role they had had in its rise. However, eleven National Association players did not even have this opportunity, dying before the adoption of the Reserve Clause in 1879 helped paved the way for baseball to attain prosperity. One of these was Henry Burroughs.

Henry was born around 1844 in New Jersey, to Joseph and Hannah Burroughs. The family moved from rural Hopewell township to Newark around the time of Henry's birth. Around the same time, the Knickerbocker club was adopting formal rules for baseball, and beginning to play matches only ten miles away on Elysian Fields. Henry Burroughs thus grew up with the game, and while no record of his early ball career has been found, his growth to maturity seems to also have closely paralleled that of the game of baseball itself.

Before the Knickerbockers were formed, games similar to baseball were played, but exclusively by young boys, as men were expected to have more important things to do. But as the population moved from the country to the city, and from farming jobs to clerical and factory jobs, physical recreation began to be seen as a valuable means of preventing physical degeneracy. The game of baseball accordingly became very popular in New York during the 1850s, as did a variety of other forms of exercise.

The Civil War naturally arrested the game's growth, but after the war, the game of baseball, and interest in athletics generally, quickly spread across the country. One of the people most directly affected by this development was Henry Burroughs. Burroughs moved to Detroit in 1865 to work as a gymnastics instructor at the newly formed Detroit Gymnasium. He was soon pitching for the Detroit Base Ball Club, an amateur gentlemen's club which soon established itself as the state's best team, winning an elaborate silver goblet emblematic of state supremacy that fall. That December, Burroughs was one of two Michigan representatives at a meeting of fourteen midwestern clubs in Chicago to form the Northwestern Association of Base-ball Players.

The 1866 season saw the Detroit Base Ball Club continue to reign as state champions, and beginning to look further afield. In June, they traveled to Rockford, Illinois to participate in a tournament billed as being for the championship of the Northwest. Detroit's first opponents were a hopelessly overmatched club from the small town of Pecatonica, Illinois. When Detroit beat them 49-1, they immediately established as the favorites among bettors. However, in their next game the eventual-champion Excelsiors of Chicago staged a late rally to eliminate Burroughs' club.

Burroughs did win accolades for his finesse at keeping opposing base runners at bay: "Never was better work done by the pitcher, catcher, and baseman than by the Detroit nine in the match. In the sixth innings of the Excelsiors when McNally was on the first base . . . the work between Burroughs, (p.) Phelps (c) and Clark (1b) excited intense interest. McNally endeavored to "steal," but he was so closely watched that he dared not move his length from the base. The ball would pass with the rapidity of a cannon shot from the hands of Burroughs to Phelps, who stood close to the batsman and received it firmly in his hands, and if McNally was off the base the ball would fly to Clark so quick that one would think it had actually bounded from Phelps' hands in that direction. Clark caught it with the same precision, and not merely caught it, but with the same notion brought it in contact with McNally. The latter soon learned not to leave his base further than his length, and as soon as he saw Burroughs or Phelps make the least motion towards the base, he would drop flat with his hands on it. This interesting scene was finally brought to a close by Burroughs getting the ball into Clark quicker than McNally could drop, and thus putting him out." As this suggests, catchers were already playing close behind the batter with runners on base, and modern pick-off techniques were already in effect, with a main role of the pitcher being to keep the running game in check.

That winter the Detroit Gymnasium closed, and Burroughs returned home to Newark, and then settled briefly in Toledo. Without its best player, the Detroit Base Ball Club floundered, being thrashed by a club of University of Michigan students 70-18. The club did host an elaborate tournament that summer, and Burroughs visited town to witness the spectacle and umpire a couple of games.

By 1868, the game of baseball was changing dramatically. The formerly lily-pure amateur Detroit Base Ball Club was beginning to pay players, and Burroughs returned to Detroit, presumably with some financial reward. However, the game on the field was also changing, and the best pitchers were now employing great speed as well as finesse to foil the opposition. The 5'8", 147 lbs. Burroughs accordingly mostly played at shortstop, and, while he remained their best hitter, the lack of a first-rate pitcher prevented the club from recapturing its former glory. After the season, the club elected to go back to playing strictly as amateurs, and Burroughs left Michigan for good.

Burroughs played for the Irvington club of Brooklyn in 1869, and by the time the National Association was formed in 1871, he was highly enough regarded to find a place on the Washington franchise. After two years of limited playing duty supplemented by working in the Treasury Department, he returned home to Newark, found work as a clerk and married. Sadly, Henry Burroughs died of tuberculosis on March 31, 1878, his life having paralleled baseball during its infancy, but not having lasted long enough to witness the success of the game to which he had contributed so much. His obituary noted that he had "gained celebrity as a base ball player, travelling over the United States" and was mourned by "hosts of friends, throughout the West and South as well as in Newark being known as a genial and whole souled gentleman."

## New Monthly Data

### Questionnaires Received:

None

### New Information Received:

1957 Anderson, Harry Walter	D: <u>Jun 11 1998</u>	(C1)
	<u>Greenville, Delaware</u>	
1874 Barnie, William Harrison	TR	(M4)
1958 Blackburn, Ronald Hamilton	D: <u>Apr 29 1998</u>	(S3)
	<u>Morganton, North Carolina</u>	
1943 Bradford, Henry Victor	D: <u>Jun 10 1994</u>	(C1)
	<u>Paris, Kentucky</u>	
1898 Callahan, James W.	Name: <u>John W. Callahan</u>	(M3)
1943 Campanis, Alexander Sebastian	D: <u>Jun 21 1998</u>	(C1)
	<u>Fullerton, California</u>	
1942 Cathey, Hardin	Name: <u>Hardin Abner Cathey</u>	(Q1)
	D: <u>Jul 27 1997</u>	
	<u>Nashville, Tennessee</u>	
1959 Donnelly, Edward Vincent	B: <u>Dec 10 1932</u>	(S3)
	D: <u>Dec 25 1992</u>	
	<u>Houston, Texas</u>	
1924 Emery, Herrick Smith	B: <u>Dec 10 1896</u>	(T1)
1955 Froats, William John	D: <u>Feb 9 1998</u>	(C1)
	<u>Minneapolis, Minnesota</u>	
1943 Gentile, Samuel Christopher	D: <u>May 4 1998</u>	(O2)
	<u>Everett, Massachusetts</u>	
1889 Gill, James C.	B: <u>Jul 1866</u>	(M3)
	Delete St. Louis, Missouri as birthplace	
	D: <u>Apr 10 1923</u>	
	<u>Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania</u>	
1980 Hargesheimer, Alan Robert	B: <u>Nov 21 1954</u>	(P1)
1950 Hatfield, Fred James	D: <u>May 22 1998</u>	(C1)
	<u>Tallahassee, Florida</u>	
1947 Hearn, James Tolbert	D: <u>Jun 10 1998</u>	(C1)
	<u>Boca Grande, Florida</u>	
1871 Higham, Richard	B: <u>Ipswich, England</u>	(M4)
1983 Hulett, Timothy Craig	B: <u>Jan 12 1960</u>	(T1)
1938 Irwin, Thomas Andrew	D: <u>Apr 25 1996</u>	(C1)
	<u>Altoona, Pennsylvania</u>	
1940 Javery, Alva William	D: <u>Aug 16 1977</u>	(T1)
1981 Linares, Rufino de la Cruz	D: <u>May 16 1998</u>	(O2)
	<u>San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Rep.</u>	
1901 McPherson, John Jacob	TR	(R1)
1871 Mills, Charles	B: <u>Sep 1844</u>	(M3)
1932 Moon, Leo	B: <u>Bellemont, North Carolina</u>	(L5)

1905 Moore, George Raymond	Delete birth, death, height, weight Wrong man. Name: <u>George Moore</u> B: <u>Ohio</u>	(T3)
1875 Munn, Horatio B.	Height: <u>6-04</u> Weight: <u>200</u> Name: <u>Horatio Brinsmade Munn</u> B: <u>Jul 26 1851</u> <u>Newark, New Jersey</u>	(M3)
1936 Murray, Joseph Ambrose	D: <u>Feb 17 1910</u> <u>Brooklyn, New York</u> Name: <u>Ambrose Joseph Murray</u> D: <u>Feb 6 1997</u>	(C1)
1951 Noble, Rafael Miguel (Magee)	<u>Port Salerno, Florida</u> D: <u>May 9 1998</u>	(C1)
1909 Oakes, Ennis Telfair	<u>Brooklyn, New York</u> B: <u>Dec 17 1883</u> <u>Lisbon, Louisiana</u> D: <u>Mar 1 1948</u>	(L5)
1962 Phillips, Richard Eugene	<u>Lisbon, Louisiana</u> D: <u>Mar 29 1998</u>	(N4)
1938 Rogers, Stanley Frank	<u>Burnaby, British Columbia</u> D: <u>May 15 1998</u>	(D6)
1937 Sodd, William	<u>Elmira, New York</u> D: <u>May 14 1998</u>	(W1)
1884 Tray, James	<u>Fort Worth, Texas</u> Real name: <u>James Trahey</u>	(M4)
1954 White, Charles	B: <u>Aug 12 1927</u> D: <u>May 26 1998</u>	(W2)
1878 Williamson, Edward Nagle	<u>Sea-Tac, Washington</u> D: <u>Mountain Valley Springs, Arkansas</u>	(L5)