



Biographical Research Committee Monthly Report
January/February 1998

Henry Burroughs Found

It was a terrific first two months of 1998 as we found four missing ballplayers. But of the four, Henry Burroughs would be the most difficult since he played only in 1871 and 1872. The *Find of the Month* is shared by Peter Morris and Debbi Dagavarian-Bonar.

Burroughs was rumored to be from Detroit and Pete was investigating him there. He found a note indicating that Burroughs was from Newark and found Burroughs' wife listed as a widow in 1879. He sent this information to Debbi, who managed to find Burroughs' death record in 1878. Debbi even found an obituary which mentioned his baseball career, an amazing thing for 1878. Great work by Pete and Debbi!

New Members

Please welcome Jay Roberts to the committee. Jay's address is 7010 Grove Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22306. Jay's code number will be R4. Also welcome Tom Miller, 1802 Wendell Street, Dalton, Georgia 30721. Tom's code number will be M7.

Hoyt Wilhelm

Pete Palmer was at a function where he sat next to Hoyt Wilhelm's wife. She said that Hoyt was actually a year older than we list, if that's possible. Does anyone have a way of checking on this?

Collegians

Cappy Gagnon has done a lot of research on major league players who attended college. Cappy sent me a list of the first collegians to play in the majors, organized into several categories.

The first members of a major league to have previously attended college were Cap Anson (Notre Dame and Iowa), Steve Bellan (Fordham), Fred Treacey (Manhattan), and Denny Mack (Villanova). The first NA players to graduate from college were, in order of debut, Alexander Nevin (Yale), Jim O'Rourke (Yale), George Knight (Yale), and Doc Bushong (Pennsylvania). Ranked by degree date, the order changes to Nevin, Knight, Bushong, and O'Rourke.

The first National Leaguers to graduate from college were, in order of debut, Jim O'Rourke (Yale), Doc Bushong (Pennsylvania), Leonidas Lee (Princeton), Frank Bliss (Michigan), John Ward (Columbia), Lee Richmond (Brown and NYU), Jack Allen (Pennsylvania), Asa Stratton (Brown and Boston), Hal McClure (Bucknell), Jack Jones (Yale and Harvard), and Will Sawyer (Adalbert). Ranked by degree date, the order becomes Bliss, Stratton, McClure, Lee, Richmond, Allen, Bushong, Sawyer, Jones, O'Rourke, and Ward.

Thus, depending on how you define it, Anson, Nevin, O'Rourke, Bliss, and Stratton can all lay claim to being the first collegian.

Dutch Fehring

Since we have been on the topic of one game players lately, Pete Cava sent along the following story of William Paul "Dutch" Fehring, who caught one game for the Chicago White Sox on June 25, 1934.

Fehring, a native of Columbus, Indiana, starred in baseball, football, and basketball at Purdue during the Depression years. In three varsity seasons at Purdue he won nine letters and in 1933 he was the Boilermaker's MVP in baseball. Dutch passed up several pro football

offers after graduation in 1934 to sign with the White Sox. He spent the next few weeks warming up relief pitchers in the bullpen.

One afternoon at Comiskey Park, with the Yankees up 10-2 in the 7th, Chicago player-manager Jimmy Dykes ordered Fehring and another rookie, pitcher Harry Kinzy, into the game. "The first batter," Fehring recalls, "was Earle Combs who hit his first homer of the year."

One out later, New York centerfielder Ben Chapman reached base safely. "I said to myself, 'I hope he tries to steal and I'll throw him out,'" Fehring says. "But Lou Gehrig got up and hit two of the longest foul balls I've ever seen. The second one was a close call, and he came back to the batters box jawing at home plate umpire George Moriarty. Lou hit the next pitch to deep center."

As the ball sailed past Chicago centerfielder Mule Haas, Gehrig thundered around the bases. Haas retrieved the ball and fired it to Al Simmons, who'd moved over from left to take the throw. Gehrig was headed for the plate, trying for an inside-the-park homer. Simmons relayed the ball to shortstop Luke Appling, who gunned it to Fehring.

"I remember Gehrig as something like 6-2, 220," says Dutch, "and I weighed around 190. I saw him coming and I was sure he was going to bowl me over." When he saw Fehring with the ball, Gehrig slid for home. "He never reached the plate," says Fehring with a chuckle, "and I tagged him out. It was the thrill of my major league career."

Fehring struck out in his only major league at bat against Johnny Broaca. In July, the Sox assigned him to Dallas of the Class A Texas League. He finished the year at Longview of the Class C West Dixie League. Fehring retired after the season and returned to Purdue to coach freshman teams in baseball, basketball, and football. Two years later he took over as the Boilermakers' head baseball coach. Paul "Duffy" Friend, Bob Friend's older brother, was a solid-hitting outfielder on Dutch's 1942 squad — his last before entering the Navy for World War II military service. After the war, Fehring was hired twice as an assistant football coach by Bud Wilkinson — first at Oklahoma, later at UCLA. In 1948, he moved to Stanford as an assistant coach in baseball and football.

Fehring became Stanford's head baseball coach in 1956. He helped develop future big leaguers like Jim Lonborg, Bob Boone, Frank Duffy, and Don Rose. Duffy and Rose played for

Stanford's 1967 squad, which Fehring led to a 36-6-1 record and 3rd place in the College World Series.

Fehring retired from coaching after that season and served as Stanford's intramurals director through 1977. He is a member of the Purdue University's Athletic Hall of Fame and the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Now 85 years old, Dutch and his wife Edna live in Menlo Park, California. Dutch also served as president of the U.S. Baseball Federation from 1963-77.

A Rumor Grows in Brooklyn

Bob Richardson found notes on two different players, John (Rooney) Sweeney and Frank Knauss, each indicating that they were dying in Brooklyn in 1897. Bob could not find any mention of their deaths in the New York Times, but perhaps this would be a good starting point in looking for them.

Birthday List

There are several nonagenarians celebrating birthdays in March and April. Make sure you send a card.

March 12	Robert Barr	90
March 29	William Strickland	90
April 9	Howard Groskloss	92
April 17	Robert Stevens	91

Was His Son's Name Kennesaw?

Samuel Landis had a rather interesting but brief career. He pitched one season in the major leagues and went 12-28, leading the AA in losses in 1882. He was born August 16, 1854. On August 1, 1883, he married Ida Weidner in Reading, Pennsylvania. The marriage license said he was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania. No Samuel Landis with wife Ida appears in the 1900 Pennsylvania census. We have an exact birth date, and exact wedding date, and nothing afterwards. Hence, Landis becomes our first 1998 *Mystery of the Month*.

The Scoreboard

	IN	OUT	PCT
Total Complete Names	14829	68	99.544
Total Complete Births	14154	743	95.012
Total Complete Deaths	7399	460	49.668
Total Assumed Alive	7038		47.244
Total Bats	13546	1245	91.583
Total Throws	13800	991	93.300
Total Heights	13797	994	93.280
Total Weights	13733	1058	92.847
Total Debut Dates	14897	0	100.000
Total Questionnaires	9982	4915	67.007
Total Completion			92.1631

New Monthly Data

Questionnaires Received:

None

New Information Received:

1937 Ambler, Wayne Harper	D: <u>Jan 3 1998</u> <u>Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida</u>	(D6)
1936 Becker, Joseph Edward	D: <u>Jan 11 1998</u> <u>Sunset Hills, Missouri</u>	(H5)
1952 Bevan, Joseph Harold	Name: <u>Harold Joseph Bevan</u>	(S6)
1972 Blanco, Damaso (Caripe)	B: <u>Nov 12 1941</u>	(T1)
1871 Burroughs, Henry F.	Name: <u>Henry S. Burroughs</u> D: <u>May 31 1878</u> <u>Newark, New Jersey</u>	(D4)
1935 Conroy, William Gordon	D: <u>Nov 13 1997</u> <u>Citrus Heights, California</u>	(S3)
1928 Cox, George Melvin	D: <u>Bedford, Texas</u>	(C1)
1943 Curtright, Guy Paxton	D: <u>Aug 23 1997</u> <u>Sun City Center, Florida</u>	(C1)
1942 Donovan, Willard Earl	D: <u>Sep 25 1997</u> <u>Maywood, Illinois</u>	(H4)
1891 Fitzgerald, John T.	Name: <u>Warren B. Fitzgerald</u> B: <u>Apr 1872</u> <u>Pennsylvania</u> D: <u>Nov 7 1930</u> <u>Phoenix, Arizona</u> TL Height: <u>5-09</u> Weight: <u>162</u>	(S5)
1952 Fornieles, Jose Miguel (Torres)	D: <u>Feb 11 1998</u> <u>St. Petersburg, Florida</u>	(O2)
1932 Friedrichs, Robert George	D: <u>Apr 15 1997</u> <u>Jasper, Indiana</u>	(C1)
1951 Gaedel, Edward Carl	Real Name: <u>Edward Carl Gaedele</u>	(T1)
1940 Gremp, Louis Edward	D: <u>Jan 30 1995</u> <u>Manteca, California</u>	(C1)
1938 Gryska, Sigmund Stanley	B: <u>Nov 4 1914</u> D: <u>Aug 27 1994</u> <u>Hines, Illinois</u>	(T1)
1937 Harshaney, Samuel	B: <u>Apr 24 1910</u>	(N4)
1922 High, Andrew Aird	D: <u>Sylvania, Ohio</u>	(H3)
1929 Holloway, James Madison	D: <u>Apr 15 1997</u> <u>Baton Rouge, Louisiana</u>	(C1)
1959 Hunt, Kenneth Lawrence	D: <u>Jun 8 1997</u> <u>Gardena, California</u>	(W1)
1896 Johnson, Albert J.	B: <u>1875</u> <u>Chicago, Illinois</u> D: <u>Nov 28 1960</u> <u>Detroit, Michigan</u>	(M4)

1891 Killeen, Henry	B: <u>May 1872</u>	(R1)
1897 Magee, William J.	B: <u>Jul 6 1875</u>	(R1)
1940 Masterson, Paul Nickalis	Name: <u>Paul Nicholas Masterson</u>	(T1)
	Real Name: <u>Paul Nicholas Nastasowski</u>	
	D: <u>Nov 27 1997</u>	
	<u>Chicago, Illinois</u>	
1935 Mazzera, Melvin Leonard	D: <u>Dec 19 1997</u>	(CL)
	<u>Stockton, California</u>	
1997 McGuire, Ryan Byron	B: <u>Bellflower, California</u>	(MC)
1898 McKenna, James William	TR	(R1)
1890 Miller, Robert W.	D: <u>May 23 1931</u>	(D4)
	<u>Newark, New Jersey</u>	
1938 Moran, Albert Thomas	D: <u>Jan 7 1998</u>	(O1)
	<u>Saratoga Springs, New York</u>	
1919 Newkirk, Joel Ivan	D: <u>Eldorado, Illinois</u>	(T1)
1890 O'Connell, Patrick	New Player	(C1)
	B: <u>1862</u>	
	<u>Brooklyn, New York</u>	
	D: <u>May 5 1892</u>	
	<u>Brooklyn, New York</u>	
	Debut: <u>Apr 17 1890</u>	
1886 O'Connell, Patrick H.	Remove 1890 Brooklyn (AA) record	(C1)
1994 Oliva, Jose (Galvez)	Height: <u>6-03</u> Weight: <u>215</u>	(T2)
1931 Olson, Marvin Clement	D: <u>Feb 5 1998</u>	(T1)
	<u>Tyndall, South Dakota</u>	
1996 Ordonez, Reynaldo	B: <u>Jan 11 1971</u>	(C1)
1945 Picciuto, Nicholas Thomas	D: <u>Winchester, Virginia</u>	(C1)
1997 Ramos, Kenneth Cecil	B: <u>Sidney, Nebraska</u>	(BP)
1915 Rice, Edgar Charles	D: <u>Rossmoor, Maryland</u>	(T1)
1948 Rice, Harold Houston	Debut: <u>Sep 25 1948</u>	(G4)
1887 Roach, John F.	B: <u>Farrandsville, Pennsylvania</u>	(T1)
1943 Rocco, Michael Dominick	D: <u>Jun 1 1997</u>	(T2)
	<u>St. Paul, Minnesota</u>	
1930 Samuels, Joseph Jonas	D: <u>Bath, New York</u>	(C1)
1927 Smith, Richard Paul	D: <u>Sylvania, Ohio</u>	(H3)
1940 Strincevich, Nicholas	Real Name: <u>Nicholas Mihailovich</u>	(MC)
1884 Welch, Curtis Benton	B: <u>Feb 10 1862</u>	(T1)
	<u>Williamsport, Ohio</u>	